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NAVY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Brigadier-General Commandant of the
United States Marine Corps

TO THE
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

1908



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS,
Washington, D. C., September 22, 1908.

SIR: In compliance with the department's instructions of July 1, 1908, the undersigned has the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the United States Marine Corps for the last fiscal year, and, in connection therewith, to transmit the annual estimates for its support during the coming fiscal year.

During the period covered by this report inspections of the marine barracks at the navy-yards and stations both in the United States and in the insular possessions thereof have been made, as far as practicable, either by the undersigned or by officers of the adjutant and inspector's department. Such of the barracks as have not been inspected during the past year will be inspected in the near future. Favorable reports as to the personnel, so far as pertains to health and discipline, have been made of those posts which have been visited by the inspecting officers.

The status of the personnel, both commissioned and enlisted, will be slightly benefited by the legislation contained in the last naval appropriation act, but sufficient relief has not been granted, and attention thereto will be invited in this report.

Attention is invited to the inadequacy of the barracks of the corps and to the estimates submitted by the quartermaster of the corps, approved by the undersigned, for increased barrack accommodations rendered absolutely necessary by present conditions. These estimates are earnestly recommended to the department's favorable consideration.

During the past year the money appropriated by Congress under the appropriation "Repairs of barracks" has been judiciously expended in making such minor repairs and alterations as were necessary to keep the barracks in proper condition for habitation.

Quarters for about 200 enlisted men and 8 officers will be ready for occupancy about May 1 next at New London, Conn., when the repairs and improvements to the buildings belonging to the Marine Corps at this station will be completed.

Three sets of officers' quarters have been contracted for at the navy-yard, Philadelphia, Pa., at a total expense of \$40,572. These will be the first permanent quarters for marine officers erected at this station.

Two sets of officers' quarters and a laundry are under construction at the navy-yard, Norfolk, Va.

The new barracks and one set of officers' quarters which were authorized for the Marine Corps at the naval station, New Orleans, La., during the last session of Congress have been completed and will shortly be occupied. These buildings are frame with slate roofs. The barracks will accommodate about 100 men.

The construction of one barracks and one set of officers' quarters at the naval training station, San Francisco, Cal., will be commenced within the next thirty days.

PUBLIC WORKS TO BE CONSTRUCTED.

The act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, made the following appropriations for public works of the Marine Corps:

For the completion of marine barracks, navy-yard, Boston, Massachusetts, twenty thousand dollars.

For the completion of the storehouse, marine barracks, navy-yard, New York, New York, thirty thousand dollars.

Barracks and quarters, Marine Corps: To complete three officers' quarters, marine barracks, navy-yard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, fifteen thousand dollars.

To complete the quartermaster's depot, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the purchase of ground adjoining said building, and addition to depot, seventy thousand dollars.

For the completion of officers' quarters, marine barracks, navy-yard, Norfolk, Virginia, five thousand dollars.

Naval station, Charleston, South Carolina: For the completion of officers' quarters, twenty-five thousand dollars; and for marine barracks, fifty thousand dollars; in all, seventy-five thousand dollars.

To complete officers' quarters, marine barracks, navy-yard, Pensacola, Florida, five thousand dollars.

For installing electric lights and heating system, marine barracks, Sitka, Alaska, five thousand dollars.

For the completion of officers' quarters, naval station, Olongapo, Philippine Islands, ten thousand dollars; and for the construction and completion of amusement room and gymnasium for enlisted men, ten thousand dollars.

For the necessary repairs and improvements to such buildings at the naval station, New London, Connecticut, as have been assigned to the Marine Corps by the Navy Department, ten thousand dollars, which sum shall be in addition to the twenty-five thousand dollars appropriated for this object in the naval appropriation act, approved June twenty-ninth, nineteen hundred and six.

The quartermaster of the Marine Corps has taken the necessary steps to make contracts for the construction of the public works appropriated for.

PUBLIC WORKS CONTEMPLATED.

The quartermaster has been directed to embody in the estimates for the coming fiscal year the following sums for public works:

Portsmouth, N. H.—For the erection of two officers' quarters, \$30,000. These quarters are absolutely necessary for the accommodation of the officers attached to this post, there being at the present time quarters for only two officers. The services of four officers are urgently needed for the proper performance of duty at this post.

Boston, Mass.—The parade ground at the marine barracks, navy-yard, Boston, is in very bad condition. A board of officers convened by the commandant of the station recently reported that it was advisable to cover the parade ground with concrete or asphaltum. In this way the ground would be available for use at all seasons of the year. This improvement is necessary, and to accomplish it an estimate of \$10,000 is submitted.

Newport, R. I.—Eight thousand dollars has been incorporated in the estimates in order to put in proper condition the parade ground at this station which has recently been increased in area by reclaiming certain ground from the sea. In places there are deep and unsightly

holes which in wet weather are filled with water; in other places gravel and rubbish have been dumped. A certain amount of grading must be done, not only to improve the appearance of the Marine Corps site, but to give the men a proper ground for the prescribed drills and evolutions.

New London, Conn.—Twenty thousand dollars are incorporated in the estimates for the construction of two officers' quarters at this station. At the present time there are no quarters outside of the barracks proper.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Toward the completion of the building programme at this yard, which programme has been outlined in the annual reports for several years, it is necessary to construct one barracks, four sets of officers' quarters, and one amusement and gymnasium hall. Estimates have been submitted for \$150,000 for the barracks, \$60,000 for the officers' quarters, and \$20,000 for the building for the men.

Philadelphia is rapidly becoming the most important post of the Marine Corps. It is at this post that nearly all regiments, battalions, and companies for service afloat and for duty in the field are mobilized and equipped, and from there transferred to their destination. It is a most excellent rendezvous, especially so in view of the fact that the quartermaster's depot of supplies is in Philadelphia. At present only about 250 men can be comfortably accommodated at this post. It is believed that at the present time at least two battalions should be stationed at this post, and, in the near future, another. The officers' quarters are necessary for the increased number of officers to be stationed at this yard, and the amusement hall and gymnasium is considered absolutely necessary for the comfort and contentment of the men, this especially in view of the fact of the isolation of this post from the city.

Norfolk, Va.—Estimates are submitted for additional barracks at this post. For this purpose the sum of \$150,000 has been placed in the estimates. Norfolk is the chief southern place of rendezvous for the corps, and the extra number of men there are considered necessary.

Four additional sets of officers' quarters are urgently needed at this station, and for this purpose an appropriation of \$60,000 has been asked.

Twenty-five thousand dollars has been inserted in the estimates to carry on the extensive sewerage, draining, grading, and filling required, and otherwise improving the parade ground, and for the erection of a fence around the reservation.

Charleston, S. C.—Ten thousand dollars is required for the construction of one set of officers' quarters at this station.

An appropriation of \$5,000 has been placed in the estimates with which to purchase a small tract of land lying outside and south of the present navy-yard in the section in which there is located the naval hospital reservation. This tract of land contains about 20 acres. It is high, firm ground, and the best available. It has been reported to this office by the commandant of the navy-yard, Charleston, that the mayor of said city is willing to have this tract conveyed to the Marine Corps for \$5,000. It is earnestly recommended that the authority of Congress be granted in order to purchase this tract at the price mentioned and that the amount be made immediately available. To

spend the money appropriated—\$75,000—in building a barracks on the ground which the Navy is willing to allot to the Marine Corps at this station would be a serious and expensive mistake, as it would cost nearly as much to put the site in suitable condition as to build the barracks.

New Orleans, La.—One additional set of officers' quarters is urgently needed at this post, and to that end \$10,000 have been placed in the estimates. At the present time there is only one set of officers' quarters at the post, and this is temporarily occupied by the commanding officer.

Twelve thousand dollars is necessary to make the necessary improvements to the parade ground, and to have walks, drives, etc., built. The ground upon which the barracks and quarters are located was formerly a rice field and the ditches originally dug for irrigating purposes are to-day in the same condition as they were when the land was purchased by the Government. The parade ground is seriously cut up by these ditches and can not, therefore, be used for drills.

Bremerton, Wash.—One hundred and fifty thousand dollars is required for the construction of barracks at this station. The barracks now in use are frame, unsuitable and inadequate for the command, and is located in a portion of the yard needed for naval purposes. The commandant of the station has recently and urgently recommended that the marines be transferred to another site at said station.

This station is growing in importance; the strength of the marine command is to be increased, and the increased accommodations for men and officers are absolutely necessary. In case the barracks are built five sets of officers' quarters should also be built, for which purpose the sum of \$60,000 is asked.

Honolulu, Hawaii.—An appropriation of \$135,000 is necessary for barracks at Honolulu, where the men for awhile were living in an old wooden coaling shed which had to be abandoned and the force of marines are now quartered in tents, which is unsatisfactory. Sixty thousand dollars has also been asked for with which to construct five sets of officers' quarters which are believed to be necessary for this post.

Cavite, P. I.—The officers and enlisted men on duty in Cavite are at present quartered in a number of buildings which are separated and illy adapted for their use. The buildings, generally speaking, are frame, temporary in character, and in no sense safe from fire. The men's quarters, especially, are overcrowded, and in some instances the buildings are required for naval purposes. Seventy-five thousand dollars is urgently needed for the construction of barracks at Canacao for the use of this command. The services of at least nine officers are required at this post for duty with the troops and to perform staff duties, and officers' quarters should be constructed for this number, for which \$60,000 has been inserted in the estimates.

Five thousand dollars is needed for the construction at Cavite, convenient to the quartermaster's depot, of a wharf extending out into water having a sufficient depth to permit tugs and lighters to come alongside to load and unload supplies; also a small dock at the shore end of the wharf is necessary upon which to construct a crane for hoisting heavy boxes, crates, etc., containing stores and supplies. For this purpose an item of \$5,000 has been inserted in the estimates.

Olongapo, P. I.—Toward the completion of the building programme at this station an estimate of \$15,000 is inserted in this year's estimates for the purpose of constructing three additional sets of officers' quarters. There are at present twenty officers on duty at this post, and quarters for only twelve. It is earnestly recommended that this receive the department's approval.

CAMPAIGN BADGES.

In the last annual report from these headquarters attention was invited to the question of providing campaign badges for officers and enlisted men of the United States Marine Corps, and the undersigned is pleased to note that the department, under date of June 27, 1908, issued, by authority of the President, Special Order No. 82, which prescribes campaign badges with ribbons as articles of uniform to be issued to officers and enlisted men who are now or may hereafter be in the Marine Corps, to commemorate services which have been or shall hereafter be rendered in campaigns.

THE NEW RIFLE.

The quartermaster has been directed to incorporate in the estimates an item of \$236,500 with which to purchase from the Army 10,000 rifles, complete, latest model, and 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition. This is deemed necessary in order that the Marine Corps may be armed with the same rifle as the Army. The new arm is considered superior to that now in use, and as the marines and Army are frequently serving together, in case of an emergency serious embarrassment would ensue, owing to the ammunition supply. As the Secretary of the Navy has directed that the enlisted men of the Navy be armed with this new rifle, it therefore seems only right and proper that the enlisted men of the Marine Corps should have the same arm.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPOT, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Under the act approved March 2, 1907, Congress appropriated \$200,000 for the purchase of land and the erection thereon of an addition to the depot of supplies in Philadelphia. In due course five lots adjoining the depot were purchased, and on August 30, 1907, a contract was entered into with the Penn Bridge Company for the construction of the first addition, which it is expected will be completed within about one month. In the act approved May 13, 1908, Congress again appropriated \$70,000 for the purchase of land adjoining the depot and the erection thereon of a second addition. Six lots and a parcel of land in the rear were purchased and a contract has been entered into with the Penn Bridge Company to construct a second addition, which work it is hoped will be completed next June. When these two additions are completed the depot will be twice as large as at present and the space therein will be sufficient to store all the quartermaster's supplies which are manufactured and purchased in the East. It is the purpose of the quartermaster to manufacture in this building the clothing and equipments for the men of the corps, which, it is believed, will materially decrease the cost thereof.

NEW RATION.

The law requires that marines serving on shore shall, when practicable, be supplied with the army ration. Pursuant to the order of the Secretary of War, dated April 3, 1908, upon the recommendation of the Commissary-General of the Army, the army ration was materially improved, the number of articles and the quantity of each being increased. The ration for the Marine Corps for the current fiscal year, which is now being supplied, is in accord with this new order. Bids have been received which show that the new ration will cost more than the old one, and this, added to the increased cost of supplies generally, will make the ration cost about 14 per cent more than it did last year.

TOILET KITS FOR ISSUE TO RECRUITS UPON THEIR FIRST ENLISTMENT.

There is now being issued gratuitously to each recruit upon his enlistment in the Army a complete kit consisting of—

One razor.	One brush, tooth.
One brush, shaving.	One housewife.
One brush, hair.	Two towels, huckaback.
One comb, medium.	One package polish, black, shoe.
One brush, shoe.	One package shoe polish, russet.
One broom, whisk.	One cake soap, toilet.

Under section 1612 of the Revised Statutes enlisted men of the Marine Corps are entitled to the same pay and allowances as the infantry of the Army, and the undersigned is therefore of the opinion that such kits should be furnished to recruits of the Marine Corps, and the quartermaster has been directed to embody in the estimates, under "Transportation and recruiting," a proper sum of money for this purpose.

PROHIBITION AGAINST USE OF NAVAL BANDS.

The question as to whether the Marine Band is a navy band, and therefore subject to the prohibition contained in the act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, is now under consideration by the Attorney-General of the United States. These headquarters have strongly urged that the Marine Band is a distinctive organization and not a navy band, and it is hoped that the Attorney-General will concur in this view, because of the fact that said prohibition would work serious injustice to the members of the Marine Band, whose pay is now below what it should be, and was not in any way increased by recent legislation, as was the pay of army and navy bands generally. In fact, every enlisted man of the three branches of the regular service received an increase of pay except the members of the Marine Band.

INCREASE IN RANK OF COMMANDANT OF CORPS.

The act making appropriations for the support of the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, made provision for an increase in rank of the commandant of the corps from brigadier-general to major-general.

INCREASE OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN.

The last naval appropriation act provided for an increase in the commissioned and enlisted personnel as follows:

One colonel.
 One lieutenant-colonel.
 Two majors.
 Eighteen captains.
 Seven first lieutenants.
 Fourteen second lieutenants.
 One assistant adjutant and inspector with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.
 One assistant quartermaster with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.
 One assistant quartermaster with the rank of major.
 Three assistant quartermasters with the rank of captain.

One assistant paymaster with the rank of major.
 One assistant paymaster with the rank of captain.
 Two sergeant-majors.
 Fifteen quartermaster-sergeants, five of whom are to serve in the paymaster's department.
 Twenty first sergeants.
 Fifty sergeants.
 One hundred and twenty-five corporals.
 Ten drummers.
 Ten trumpeters.
 Five hundred and eighteen privates.

The necessary steps have been taken to carry into effect this legislation, and to this end examinations of officers have been held and most of those entitled to promotion have been examined and commissioned.

The appointments in the staff departments have been made, with the exception of one captain and assistant quartermaster, and that will shortly be filled.

The necessary promotions of noncommissioned officers have been made and enlistments are being made with exceptional rapidity, so that it is safe to predict that the corps will be enlisted up to its full quota in a very short time.

The above increase, whilst it naturally somewhat relieves the situation in which the corps finds itself so far as officers and enlisted men are concerned, was but one-half the number of officers and enlisted men asked for and which were deemed absolutely necessary at the time. The conditions which were presented to the department in the last annual report have not materially changed, and the undersigned is compelled, in order that he may be in condition to respond to the calls made upon him by the department for officers and enlisted men, to ask for a slight increase in the corps this year, which it is hoped will be approved by the department, and which, if granted by the Congress, will simply give to the corps such an increase as is needed to answer the necessarily pressing and important calls made upon it. The paymaster of the corps has been directed to incorporate in the annual estimates to be submitted to the department provision for the following increase:

One major.
 Seventeen captains.
 Eight first lieutenants.
 Fourteen second lieutenants.
 Three assistant quartermasters with the rank of captain.
 One assistant paymaster with the rank of captain.
 Two sergeant-majors.

Fifteen quartermaster-sergeants, five of whom are to serve in the pay department.
 Twenty first sergeants.
 Fifty sergeants.
 One hundred and twenty-five corporals.
 Ten drummers.
 Ten trumpeters.
 Five hundred and eighteen privates.

The following table will illustrate as strongly as figures can the arduous duty which is being performed by both officers and enlisted men of the corps and the necessity for the increase which is requested:

Percentage of officers and enlisted men serving within and outside the continental limits of the United States.

July 10, 1908, total number of officers in service.....	268
Number of officers serving in the United States.....	90
Number of officers serving outside the United States.....	178
Percentage of officers serving in the United States.....	33.58
Percentage of officers serving outside the United States.....	66.42
Enlisted men in service.....	8,826
In the United States.....	3,026
Outside the United States.....	5,800
Percentage of enlisted men serving in the United States.....	34.3
Percentage of enlisted men serving outside the United States.....	65.7

INCREASE OF PAY OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN.

The last Congress acted favorably upon the question of increase of pay of officers and enlisted men, and the undersigned desires to place himself on record as strongly favoring said legislation, which he believes will materially benefit the services, which have severely suffered by the pay which they had previously received, and it is believed the corps will reach a higher plane of discipline and efficiency in consequence.

NAVY MAIL CLERKS.

By the act approved May 27, 1908, enlisted men of the United States Navy may, upon selection by the Secretary of the Navy, be designated by the Post-Office Department as "Navy mail clerks" and "Assistant navy mail clerks." It is not believed that it was the intention of the framers of the law to deprive enlisted men of the Marine Corps of these appointments, especially in view of the fact that from time out of mind the mail on board ships of the Navy has been handled by enlisted men of the Marine Corps. It does not seem fair to the enlisted men of the corps that they should be deprived of the pecuniary benefits which pertain to mail clerks and assistant mail clerks, especially so as they have always performed duty in connection with the mail in a satisfactory manner and without any increased remuneration. It is, therefore, earnestly recommended that the legislation above referred to be amended so as to permit enlisted men of the Marine Corps to participate in the benefits of this act.

EXAMINATIONS FOR PROMOTION OF OFFICERS.

The attention of the department is invited to the fact that on several occasions it has occurred that officers of the Marine Corps whose records, so far as their moral qualifications for promotion were concerned, were at least of a doubtful character, have appeared before boards which have found them physically disqualified for promotion, and therefore recommended their retirement with the next higher grade, whereas, if said boards had had an opportunity to inquire into the moral character of the candidate, it is believed that said officers

would not have been promoted. It is earnestly recommended that Congress be requested to amend the law pertaining to the examination for promotion of officers so that the moral examination of candidates shall precede the physical examination.

TRANSPORTS FOR THE MARINE CORPS.

The undersigned believes it his duty to invite the department's attention to the absolute necessity for the conversion of a ship of the *Dixie* or *Panther* type into a transport for the sole and exclusive use of the Marine Corps, said ship to be commanded and manned by officers and enlisted men of the Navy, but fitted and used solely as a transport. The records of the Navy Department and headquarters of the Marine Corps will disclose the fact that the undersigned has been frequently called upon hurriedly to mobilize detachments for foreign service, and that in each and every case the men have been segregated, equipped, and ready for transportation well in advance of the time when the Navy was able to secure for them the necessary transportation. It has been brought to the attention of the undersigned, and it must be apparent to the department, that the transportation of expeditionary forces of marines on board battle ships and other ships of the Navy is a serious drawback both to the ships and to the marines, in view of the fact that most of the ships have their full complement of men on board and the surplus marines placed thereon are in the way of the regular complement; and, in addition to this, the accommodations for the detachment are inadequate and improper, and at the same time the men are so widely separated that the necessary organization upon landing is difficult to make, whereas if a ship of the *Dixie* type were set aside for transport duty alone the men could be moved at a moment's notice; they would be comfortable while on board, and the organization could be perfected; all of which would tend materially to increased efficiency, and the matter is most earnestly recommended to the department's favorable consideration. In this connection the attention of the department is invited to the following excerpt taken from the report of Lieut. Col. Eli K. Cole, U. S. Marine Corps, commanding the recent Panama expeditionary regiment:

The trip has, in my opinion, demonstrated the undesirability of using battle ships for transports, not only on account of the cost, but of the discomforts to the men and difficulties in handling stores and the desirability of having transports on hand always ready to move expeditions of this sort at a moment's notice.

The enlisted men of the Marine Corps have endured more hardship during the last two years on naval vessels used as transports than they would in an ordinary campaign on shore of the same duration. This is not a complaint, but a statement of facts.

RECRUITING.

The fiscal year ending June 30, 1908, has shown a decided increase in recruiting. During the year 5,294 men were enlisted, a monthly average of 441.2. The Marine Corps was brought up from 8,106 on July 1, 1907, to 8,822 on June 30, 1908, a net gain of 716. During the months of November and December, 1907, enlistments were par-

ticularly numerous and during the latter month 855 men were enlisted. During January, 1908, orders were issued restricting the number of men to be enlisted to a certain number for each district, and in the latter part of February, 1908, recruiting had to be entirely suspended for about ten days, and conditions were such that many desirable men had to be turned away. In March, 1908, all restrictions to enlistments were raised and the recruiting has been progressing rapidly since. In August, 1908, the strength of the corps reached 9,052. Instead of recruiting falling off as usual during the summer months, there seems to be no sign of abatement. Had it not been necessary to restrict recruiting during the first three months of the year it is probable that the corps would now be up to its present authorized strength of 9,521.

The increase of pay authorized by Congress has also been beneficial and the bonus allowed men for reenlisting within three months after discharge has led to a large number of reenlistments.

FINGER-PRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.

The finger-print identification system which was adopted in the Marine Corps July 1, 1907, is showing satisfactory results. To date the finger prints of 8,150 men have been classified and filed. By means of this system 40 detections have been made of men who have again enlisted after having deserted or been discharged other than honorably and 19 of the men so recognized have been apprehended.

The recommendation previously made for the establishment of a so-called clearing house of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps is again renewed. The undersigned believes that while the system as now practiced in the various departments is beneficial in detecting "repeaters" in the same branch of the service, it fails to give proper notice of men who have not left one service in a status of honor from reenlisting in another service.

PORT ROYAL.

The Marine Corps not having been able to finish the New London station as a school of application, the undersigned requested of the department the temporary assignment of the naval station at Port Royal, S. C., for said purposes. Said request being granted, the necessary arrangements are being made to establish the school and to order thereto those officers who will be appointed as a result of the examinations which will be held in October next. It is believed that the site at Port Royal is most excellent for this purpose.

STATUS OF MARINES SERVING WITH THE ARMY.

Questions having arisen as to the method of addressing communications to marines detached for service with the Army by order of the President under sections 1619 and 1621 of the Revised Statutes, a joint Army, Navy, and Marine Corps Board was appointed to consider said matter. This board recommended a course of procedure which was approved by the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, and published in Circular No. 18 of the War Department, dated March 19, 1908. The procedure outlined has been found to work smoothly and will tend to prevent controversy.

SITE FOR MARINE BARRACKS, NEW YORK.

The department having informed the undersigned that the present site of barracks and officers' quarters at the navy-yard, New York, N. Y., will, in the near future, be abandoned in order to make room for the extension of the necessary plant for machinery, etc., at said navy-yard, the question is again presented as to the disposition to be made to properly quarter the force of marines necessarily required in the vicinity of said navy-yard. It has previously been urged, and it is again reiterated, that a site should be selected somewhere in the harbor of New York, preferably on Long Island, where there should be constructed barracks and quarters sufficient to accommodate not only the force of marines necessary to properly guard the navy-yard, New York, but also to collect at said point a sufficient number of men to permit of its being used as a distributing station for the ships of the United States Atlantic Fleet, and the other points along the Atlantic coast.

In accordance with the department's instructions the Quartermaster of the Marine Corps has been directed to embody in the estimates for the coming fiscal year the sum of \$400,000 for the purchase of a site for this purpose.

COMMENDATORY LETTERS.

It has been very gratifying to the undersigned to receive during the past year numerous letters from the department and from others commending in the highest terms the services of the corps as a whole as well as certain individuals thereof. The instances referred to were not only in relation to the fine appearance of the marines upon the various parades in which they participated, but have mostly been for actual services rendered, such as the fire at Chelsea, Mass., individual cases of heroism, and especially letters from the department to officers and enlisted men of the corps for services rendered at the guns.

MESS SERGEANTS.

Under date of August 18, 1908, the undersigned, with the department's authority, issued a circular letter authorizing mess sergeants of the Marine Corps who are entitled to receive \$6 additional per month when duly detailed and assigned to the supervision of messes by authority of the act approved May 11, 1908.

GOOD-CONDUCT MEDALS.

During the past year 171 good-conduct medals and 67 good-conduct medal bars have been issued to enlisted men of the corps. When consideration is given to the requirements necessary to have medals and bars awarded the above showing is considered very good.

STAFF OFFICES, SAN FRANCISCO.

The staff offices and the depot of supplies which were moved to Berkeley, Cal., after the earthquake and fire have been reopened in the Cliquot Building, San Francisco, where suitable accommodations have been secured. The removal of these offices to San Francisco

will materially expedite the transaction of public business. The new depot of supplies is fully provided with the necessary stores to fit out all detachments on the Pacific coast.

TARGET PRACTICE.

The lack of rifle ranges referred to in the report of the undersigned for 1907 has not been remedied. Most of the posts of the corps are in the vicinity of large cities, the surrounding territory of which is thickly settled. The long range of the rifle now used makes the location of ranges a problem of great difficulty. There are but few posts where the marksman's course, requiring a range of 600 yards, can be fired and it is therefore impracticable to give the necessary instructions in rifle practice under present conditions.

The marines at Boston, Mass., will use the range of the Bay State Rifle Association at Wakefield, Mass.; at Philadelphia, Pa., the 300-yard range of the U. S. S. *Lancaster*; at Newport, R. I., a 300-yard range belonging to the naval training station; at Washington, D. C., the range of the District of Columbia Militia at Anacostia, D. C.; at Charleston, S. C., the national guard range; at Annapolis, Md., the United States Navy range; at Puget Sound, Wash., the Marine Corps rifle range for the marksman's course and the national-guard range for the sharpshooter and expert rifleman's test. There is no rifle range available for the marines stationed at New York, the largest post in the United States. Steps will be taken to have the enlisted men who have qualified as marksmen and who are transferred to that post sent to the New Jersey National Guard range at Seagirt, N. J.

The Marine Corps rifle team, under Capt. William C. Harlee, U. S. Marine Corps, was assembled at Williamsburg, Va., in June, 1908, for preliminary training and was transferred to Seagirt, N. J. for further preliminary training. It was transferred to Camp Perry, Ohio, in August and participated in the Ohio State Rifle Association, National Rifle Association, and national matches at that place. The team won the first three places in the company team match, second in the regimental skirmish match, first and fifth in the Herrick trophy match out of 34 teams entered, and fourth in the national team match out of 50 teams entered, the above being all the team matches in which the rifle team was entered. In the individual matches members of the team took fourth place in the President's match, seventh in the Wimbledon cup match, fourth and eighth in the Leech cup match, first in the Hale match, first in the tyro match, and eighteenth and twentieth in the national individual match.

The team was transferred from Camp Perry, Ohio, to the range at Seagirt, N. J., upon the completion of the matches at the former place. In the matches at Seagirt the Marine Corps team won first and second place in the interstate regimental team match; fourth, fifth, and eighth in the Old Guard trophy match; first and second places in the Cruikshank trophy match; third in the McAlpin trophy match; first in the Seventy-first Regiment rapid-fire match; first in the Gould rapid-fire match, and first in the Dryden trophy match, the above being all the team matches entered. In the individual matches members of the team took in the offhand match first, third, and ninth places; in the Hale match second (tying with the winner), fourth, fifth, and sixth places; in the Thurston match

third and fourth (both tying with second) and seventh places; in the Spencer match first and fifth places; in the officers' and inspector's match third and fifth; in the Seagirt championship match fourth and ninth; and in the Reading first and second.

The excellent work done by the team in the matches referred to is a source of great pride to the undersigned and to the Marine Corps at large, and was of such a character as to call forth a commendatory letter from the Navy Department. Great credit is due Capt. William C. Harlee, U. S. Marine Corps, the team captain, for his indefatigable efforts in getting the team into the form displayed.

The following classifications have been reported to date; a marked increase in the number of qualifications over the last target year, although reports have not been received from a number of posts:

Small arms firing regulations, 1906.

	1907.	1908. ^a
Expert riflemen.....	44	51
Sharpshooters.....	74	106
Marksmen.....	112	179
Marksmen, special course A.....	7	79
Total.....	237	415
GUN POINTERS.		
Intermediate gun pointers:		
First class.....	0	7
Second class.....	0	3
Secondary gun pointers:		
First class.....	107	192
Second class.....	103	137
Total.....	210	339

^aTo date.

General Order No. 60, Navy Department, January 9, 1908, authorized the award of individual and competitive prizes, as provided for in the Landing Force and Small Arms Instructions, United States Navy, 1905, to enlisted men of the Marine Corps serving on shore and firing under the Small Arms Firing Regulations, United States Army, 1906, and a circular letter containing instructions as to how these prizes should be awarded was promulgated by the Major-General Commandant under date of February 17, 1908. The award of these prizes has proven a great incentive to target practice, particularly at posts where ranges of only 300 yards are available, and special course A must be used.

On June 30, 1908, the recommendation that the same prizes be awarded candidates who qualify for the United States Marine Corps rifle team as are awarded candidates who make the Army rifle team, under the provisions of paragraph 275, Small Arms Firing Regulations, United States Army, 1906, was approved. The approval of this recommendation made it possible to have classes of distinguished marksmen in the Marine Corps. It is believed that the awarding of these prizes will do much to stimulate interest in target practice in the Marine Corps.

In order to obtain a line on material for the Marine Corps rifle team, and to further arouse interest in target practice, it is the intention to have the Marine Corps hold during the target years in future a series

of post competitions in the United States and company and regimental matches in the Philippine Islands. These competitions would not only create a rivalry between the several posts engaged therein, but would furnish some of the enlisted men stationed at the posts where ranges are not available an opportunity to fire at the longer ranges.

In addition to the corps suffering from the lack of proper ranges, it has suffered from a lack of competent instructors at the various posts, due largely to a dearth of available officers, but also to the absence of proper practical instruction for the junior officers. It is believed that the latter difficulty can be largely overcome by ordering as large a number of officers as possible to take the preliminary course and engage in final matches with the Marine Corps team. These officers upon the completion of the course will be available for instructors in target practice at the various posts and would develop the necessary interest in target practice where stationed.

PANAMA.

A marine battalion is still serving at Camp Elliott, Isthmian Canal Zone, Panama, and, at the present time, consists of 11 officers and 400 enlisted men.

The attention of the department was invited in my last annual report to the fact that this force was housed in temporary barracks, and earnest recommendation was made that a site be assigned and proper barracks constructed for this battalion, both on account of the health as well as the efficiency of the command. No action has been taken in this matter and it is again brought to the department's attention, earnestly advising that the necessary steps be taken to rectify this condition.

An expeditionary force, consisting of 19 officers and 766 enlisted men, under command of Lieut. Col. Eli K. Cole, U. S. Marine Corps, sailed on the U. S. S. *New Hampshire* from New York and the U. S. S. *Idaho* from Philadelphia, Pa., on the 21st and 20th of June, 1908, respectively, and arrived at Colon, Panama, June 27 and 26, respectively. This force was joined with the permanent battalion at Camp Elliott for the purpose of insuring a peaceful election on the Canal Zone, which, having been effected, the troops were recently withdrawn and returned to the stations from which they had been originally taken.

The undersigned points with pleasure to the rapidity with which this expeditionary force was mobilized, fully equipped, and to the excellent service performed by it on the Isthmus. It is but another illustration of the claim which is made for the corps that it possesses as great mobility as any military body can possess.

CUBA.

The provisional regiment in Cuba has been maintained, as far as possible, up to the required strength both as to commissioned and enlisted personnel. From the reports received the undersigned is pleased to note that it is maintained in the highest state of efficiency and that its work, which is of the most satisfactory character, meets with the thorough approval of the officers of the army under whom it is serving.

MARINES IN PHILIPPINES.

The undersigned is again compelled to report that, owing to the deficiency in the number of officers and enlisted men, it has been impossible to keep the force in the Philippines up to the quota directed by the department or even to such a number as is necessary for the proper performance of the duty imposed upon it.

The attention of the department is again invited to the necessity for the construction of barracks at Canacao. The marines are now living in Fort San Felipe, which is insanitary and contains none of the necessities for a proper barracks. The quartermaster of the corps has been directed to embody in his estimates a sum for the construction of barracks at Canacao.

The condition of affairs in Olongapo, whilst better than at Cavite, is still far below what it should be, and the quartermaster has been directed to embody in the estimates a sufficient sum to remedy this condition.

The attention of the department is invited to the most excellent work done by Lieut. Col. Eli K. Cole, U. S. Marine Corps, and the detachment of marines under him, in the temporary defenses of Grande Island. This work was done in a most commendable manner and reflects great credit upon the corps. The extensive work was begun during the rainy season. Over 30 inches of water fell during the first sixty days while the men were encamped on Grande Island.

CEREMONIES.

During the past year the corps has, as usual, been called upon to participate frequently in public ceremonies of every character, and, wherever it has been practicable, said requests have been complied with. Invitations had to be declined in many cases, owing to the impossibility of securing the necessary officers and enlisted men to participate. Whenever they have been permitted to participate commendatory letters have been received as to their appearance at said functions.

STAFF DEPARTMENTS.

The work devolving upon the various staff departments of the corps has been considerably increased, owing to the necessities of the service, and the undersigned is pleased to report that the work done by said departments meets with his approval, as it has been of an efficient character.

ARMY COURTESIES.

The undersigned is again pleased to place upon record the courtesies extended to the corps by the officers of the War Department, and which have been continued during the past year.

MOVEMENT OF DETACHMENTS.

A detachment consisting of 1 officer and 125 enlisted men, under command of Capt. George Van Orden, U. S. Marine Corps, sailed from New York, N. Y., January 20, 1908, on the S. S. *Colon*, for Colon, Panama, and thence by rail to Camp Elliott, Isthmian Canal Zone, Panama; arrived at Camp Elliott January 26, 1908.

A detachment consisting of 2 officers and 200 enlisted men, under command of First Lieut. Louis G. Miller, U. S. Marine Corps, sailed from San Francisco, Cal., February 20, 1908, for duty with the First Brigade of Marines, and arrived at Cavite, P. I., March 19, 1908.

A detachment consisting of 1 officer and 101 enlisted men, under command of First Lieut. William A. Howard, U. S. Marine Corps, sailed from Newport News, Va., February 1, 1908, on the army transport *Kilpatrick*, and arrived at Habana, Cuba, on February 5, 1908.

A detachment consisting of 3 officers and 50 enlisted men, under the command of Second Lieut. William C. Wise, jr., U. S. Marine Corps, sailed from New York, N. Y., May 9, 1908, on the S. S. *Advance* for Colon, Panama, and thence by rail to Camp Elliott. Arrived at the latter place May 16, 1908.

A detachment consisting of 3 officers and 90 enlisted men, under command of First Lieut. Charles F. Williams, U. S. Marine Corps, sailed from New York, N. Y., June 12, 1908, and arrived at Camp Elliott, Isthmian Canal Zone, Panama, June 17, 1908.

A detachment consisting of 4 officers and 89 enlisted men, under command of First Lieut. William T. Hoadley, U. S. Marine Corps, sailed from Philadelphia, Pa., June 6, 1908, on the U. S. S. *Prairie*, and arrived at Camp Elliott, Isthmian Canal Zone, June 19, 1908.

A detachment consisting of 1 officer and 83 enlisted men, under command of First Lieut. Andrew B. Drum, U. S. Marine Corps (as far as Manila, P. I.), sailed from San Francisco, Cal., on the army transport *Thomas* for duty with the American legation guard, Peking, China. This detachment arrived at Manila August 11, 1908.

A detachment consisting of 1 officer and 100 enlisted men, under command of First Lieut. Albert N. Brunzell, U. S. Marine Corps, sailed from San Francisco, Cal., August 5, 1908, for duty with the marine brigade in the Philippines.

A detachment consisting of 3 officers and 100 enlisted men, under command of Capt. Ernest E. West, U. S. Marine Corps, sailed from Panama, Panama, July 13, 1908, on the U. S. S. *Albany* for Mare Island, Cal., for further transfer to the Philippines.

DETACHMENTS RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES.

The following detachments arrived in the United States since the date of the last annual report:

On September 19, 1907, 27 enlisted men arrived at San Francisco, Cal., from Manila, P. I.

On October 15, 1907, 17 enlisted men arrived at San Francisco, Cal., from Manila, P. I.

On November 23, 1907, 102 enlisted men arrived at San Francisco, Cal., from Cavite, P. I., and Honolulu, Hawaii.

On December 13, 1907, 13 enlisted men arrived at San Francisco, Cal., from Cavite, P. I., and 6 from Honolulu, Hawaii.

On January 12, 1908, 1 officer (Capt. Charles S. Hill, U. S. Marine Corps) and 7 enlisted men arrived at Newport News, Va., from Habana, Cuba.

On January 17, 1908, 22 enlisted men under command of First Lieut. Theodore E. Backstrom, U. S. Marine Corps, arrived at San Francisco, Cal., from Cavite, P. I.

One officer (Second Lieut. John E. Semmes, U. S. Marine Corps) and 3 enlisted men arrived at Newport News, Va., from Habana, Cuba, on January 22, 1908.

On February 8, 1908, 41 enlisted men arrived at New York, N. Y., from Camp Elliott, Isthmian Canal Zone, Panama.

On February 13, 1908, 2 officers and 30 enlisted men, under command of First Lieut. Robert Y. Rhea, U. S. Marine Corps, arrived at San Francisco, Cal., from Cavite, P. I.

On March 17, 1908, 2 officers and 15 enlisted men, under command of Capt. A. J. Matthews, U. S. Marine Corps, arrived at San Francisco, Cal., from Cavite, P. I.

On March 23, 1908, 44 enlisted men, under command of First Lieut. J. J. Meade, U. S. Marine Corps, arrived at Newport News, Va., from Habana, Cuba.

On April 19, 1908, 28 enlisted men arrived at San Francisco, Cal., from Honolulu, Hawaii.

On April 27, 1908, 32 enlisted men arrived at Newport News, Va., from Habana, Cuba.

On May 12, 1908, 2 officers and 94 enlisted men, under command of Col. William P. Biddle, U. S. Marine Corps, arrived at San Francisco, Cal., from Cavite, P. I.

On July 12, 1908, 15 enlisted men arrived at San Francisco, Cal., from Cavite, P. I.

SHIPS IN AND OUT OF COMMISSION.

Marine detachments have been furnished to the following ships, which have been placed in commission since the date of the last annual report:

Idaho, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Olympia, Severn, South Dakota, Topeka, and Wisconsin.

Marine detachments have been withdrawn from the following ships, which have been placed out of commission during the past year:

Dubuque, Chattanooga, Galveston, and Paducah.

APPOINTMENTS.

LINE.

Brig. Gen. George F. Elliott appointed Major-General Commandant of the Marine Corps May 21, 1908, to rank from May 13, 1908.

From civil life.—Second lieutenant, to rank from September 17, 1907: Littleton W. T. Waller, jr. Second lieutenants, to rank from February 6, 1908: Franklin H. Drees, John Dixon, Henry M. Butler, and Nedom A. Eastman. Second lieutenant, to rank from May 25, 1908: John Marston, 3d.

From the United States Naval Academy.—There were no appointments to the Marine Corps from the United States Naval Academy during the past year.

STAFF.

Capt. David D. Porter appointed assistant adjutant and inspector, with rank of major, May 22, 1908, to rank from May 14, 1908.

Capt. Harold C. Reisinger appointed assistant paymaster with rank of captain, May 22, 1908, to rank from May 14, 1908.

First Lieuts. Frank Halford, Walter E. Noa, Seth Williams, Edward W. Banker, and Charles R. Sanderson, appointed assistant quartermasters with rank of captain, May 22, 1908, to rank from May 14, 1908.

First Lieut. Davis B. Wills appointed assistant paymaster with rank of captain, May 21, 1908, to rank from May 14, 1908.

PROMOTIONS.

STAFF.

Maj. Rufus H. Lane, to assistant adjutant and inspector with rank of lieutenant-colonel, June 11, 1908, to rank from May 13, 1908.

Maj. Charles L. McCawley, to assistant quartermaster with rank of lieutenant-colonel, May 22, 1908, to rank from May 13, 1908.

Capt. Henry L. Roosevelt, to assistant quartermaster with rank of major, June 24, 1908, to rank from May 13, 1908.

LINE.

Lieut. Col. Lincoln Karmany, to colonel, May 13, 1908.

Maj. Joseph H. Pendleton, to lieutenant-colonel, January 1, 1908.

Maj. Eli K. Cole, to lieutenant-colonel, May 13, 1908.

Capt. Melville J. Shaw, to major, January 1, 1908.

Capt. Philip M. Bannon, to major, May 5, 1908.

Cpts. Newt H. Hall, Henry Leonard, George C. Thorpe, Charles S. Hill, and Henry C. Davis, to major, May 13, 1908.

First Lieut. Douglas C. McDougal, to captain, November 14, 1907.

First Lieut. Presley M. Rixey, jr., to captain, January 1, 1908.

First Lieut. Theodore E. Backstrom, to captain, January 2, 1908.

First Lieut. William H. Pritchett, to captain, May 5, 1908.

First Lieuts. Robert Y. Rhea, Thomas Holcomb, jr., Edward A. Greene, Edward B. Manwaring, Thomas M. Clinton, Hamilton D. South, James T. Buttrick, James K. Tracy, Arthur J. O'Leary, Berton W. Sibley, Frank F. Robards, William Brackett, Chandler Campbell, William L. Redles, Woodell A. Pickering, Franklin S. Wiltse, and Frederick A. Ramsey, to captain, May 13, 1908.

First Lieut. John A. Hughes, to captain, June 17, 1908.

Second Lieut. Lauren S. Willis, to first lieutenant, July 17, 1906.

Second Lieut. Frederick A. Barker, to first lieutenant, December 19, 1906.

Second Lieut. William T. Hoadley, to first lieutenant, November 14, 1907.

Second Lieut. Alexander M. Watson, to first lieutenant, December 31, 1907.

Second Lieut. Emile P. Moses, to first lieutenant, January 1, 1908.

Second Lieut. Harold F. Wirgman, to first lieutenant, January 2, 1908.

Second Lieut. Joseph A. Rossell, to first lieutenant, February 14, 1908.

Second Lieut. Jeter R. Horton, to first lieutenant, May 5, 1908.

Second Lieuts. Henry N. Manney, jr., Clifford P. Meyer, Calvin B. Matthews, Arthur A. Racicot, jr., Herman T. Vulte, Andrew B. Drum, Maurice E. Shearer, Calhoun Ancrum, David M. Randall, Henry S. Green, Ralph L. Shepard, Howard W. Stone, Bennet Puryear, jr., William W. Buckley, William D. Smith, Harold B. Pratt, and Philip H. Torrey, to first lieutenant, May 13, 1908.

Second Lieuts. Randolph Coyle, Robert L. Denig, Charles S. McReynolds, William C. Powers, and Russell H. Davis, to first lieutenant, May 14, 1908.

RETIREMENTS.

Lieut. Col. Constantine M. Perkins, December 31, 1907.
 Maj. Edward R. Lowndes, May 4, 1908.
 Maj. Theodore H. Low, January 1, 1908.
 Maj. Edwin A. Jonas, assistant quartermaster, May 18, 1908.
 Maj. Henry O. Bissett, June 16, 1908.
 Capt. Thomas S. Borden, November 13, 1907.
 First Lieut. Cleyburn McCauley, March 13, 1908.
 First Lieut. William A. Howard, May 16, 1908.

RESIGNATIONS.

First Lieut. Albert Hamilton, February 14, 1908.
 Second Lieut. John E. Semmes, January 31, 1908.
 Second Lieut. John D. Nevin, July 21, 1908.

RESIGNATION (FOR THE GOOD OF THE SERVICE).

Second Lieut. John H. Thompson, December 28, 1907.

HONORABLY DISCHARGED.

First Lieut. Henry D. F. Long, December 30, 1907.

DISMISSED.

Second Lieut. Edward P. Roelker, December 9, 1907.

DEATHS.

Lieut. Col. John H. Higbee, retired, at Buffalo, N. Y., April 18, 1908.
 Capt. Thomas S. Borden, retired, at Silver City, N. Mex., May 15, 1908.
 Capt. James W. Broatch, at Cavite, P. I., July 9, 1908.
 Second Lieut. James N. Sutton, at Annapolis, Md., October 13, 1907.

ENLISTED FORCE.

The enlistments and reenlistments in the Marine Corps during the past year have been as follows:

Enlistments.....	4, 880
Reenlistments:	
From the Marine Corps.....	536
From the Army.....	108
Joined from desertion.....	273
	<hr/> 917
Total.....	5, 797
Discharged, deserted, retired, and died.....	4, 462
	<hr/>
Net gain.....	1, 335

DISTRIBUTION OF FORCE.

During the past year marines have been doing duty at posts and on board ships in commission as follows:

In the United States.—Headquarters United States Marine Corps; assistant quartermaster's office, Philadelphia, Pa.; assistant adjutant

and inspector's office, assistant quartermaster's office, and assistant paymaster's office, San Francisco, Cal.; Annapolis, Md.; Boston, Mass.; New York, N. Y.; Charleston, S. C.; Dry Tortugas, Fla.; Key West, Fla.; Pensacola, Fla.; Iona Island, N. Y.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Mare Island, Cal.; naval home, Philadelphia, Pa.; naval hospital, Norfolk, Va.; Narragansett Bay, R. I.; naval prison, Portsmouth, N. H.; New Orleans, La.; navy-yard, Washington, D. C.; Norfolk, Va.; Port Royal, S. C.; Portsmouth, N. H.; Puget Sound, Wash.; naval training station, San Francisco, Cal.; Sitka, Alaska, and Washington, D. C.

In the West Indies.—Culebra and San Juan, P. R.; Guantanamo, Cuba; Camp Columbia, Cuba; Manzanillo, Sancti Spiritus, Palmira, Hormiguero, Nueva Gerona, Santo Domingo, Trinidad, and Baracao, Cuba.

On the Isthmus of Panama.—Camp Elliott, Isthmian Canal Zone, Panama.

In the Hawaiian Islands.—Honolulu, Hawaii.

In the Ladrone Islands.—Guam, Ladrone Islands.

In the Pacific.—Midway Islands, until March 19, 1908, when the marine detachment was transferred to the United States.

In Japan.—United States Naval Hospital, Yokohama, Japan.

In China.—American legation guard, Peking.

In the Philippine Islands.—Assistant adjutant and inspector's office, assistant quartermaster's office, assistant paymaster's office, and headquarters First Brigade of Marines, Manila, P. I.; marine barracks, Cavite, P. I.; marine barracks, Polloc, P. I., and marine barracks, Olongapo, P. I.

On board ships in commission.—Receiving ships: *Franklin, Hancock, Independence, Lancaster, Pensacola, Philadelphia, Severn, Southery, and Wabash.* Cruising ships: *Alabama, Charleston, Chicago, Colorado, Connecticut, California, Dolphin, Georgia, Helena, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kearsarge, Kentucky, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Louisiana, Maryland, Mayflower, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Mohican, Montana, Milwaukee, Mississippi, New Jersey, Nebraska, Ohio, Olympia, Pennsylvania, Rainbow, Rhode Island, St. Louis, South Dakota, Tennessee, Topeka, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wilmington, West Virginia, and Wolverine.*

Recruiting offices.—Districts of Buffalo, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, southern Ohio, Pennsylvania, Pittsburg, and Washington.

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN.

The following is the general distribution of the officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps at the present time:

	Officers.	Enlisted men.
On shore duty within the territorial limits of the United States.....	98	3,343
On shore duty outside the territorial limits of the United States.....	116	3,170
On board ships in commission.....	53	2,587
Total in service.....	267	9,100

Number of officers allowed by law, 333.

Number of enlisted men allowed by law, 9,521.

RETIRED OFFICERS EMPLOYED ON ACTIVE DUTY.

During the past year the following officers on the retired list of the Marine Corps have been employed on active duty in accordance with directions of the Secretary of the Navy (such officers being entitled to the full pay and allowances of the grade, but not to exceed that of major):

Lieut. Cols. William F. Spicer and Benjamin R. Russell; Capt. John G. Muir; and First Lieuts. Samuel J. Logan, Fred A. Udell, and John W. McClaskey.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The following recommendations contained in previous annual reports are renewed:

First. That the necessary legislation be secured to establish a school of instruction for cooks with a view to the more economical and better preparation of the ration.

Second. That the act approved March 3, 1901, be so amended as to authorize all of the assistant adjutants and inspectors of the corps to administer oaths. This is necessary for the proper administration of the duties of that department.

Third. That the marines serving with the legation guard at Peking, China, be credited with double time for such service in the same manner as is given to those serving in the Philippines.

In conclusion the undersigned deems it his duty to reiterate the fact that the recommendations herein made, both referring to the personnel and the materiel have been very carefully considered, and he trusts that they will meet the department's approval, as they are deemed essential to the proper performance of duty and to keep the standard of the corps up to that degree of efficiency which has hitherto characterized its action.

Very respectfully,

G. F. ELLIOTT,
Major General Commandant.

The SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Major-General Commandant of the
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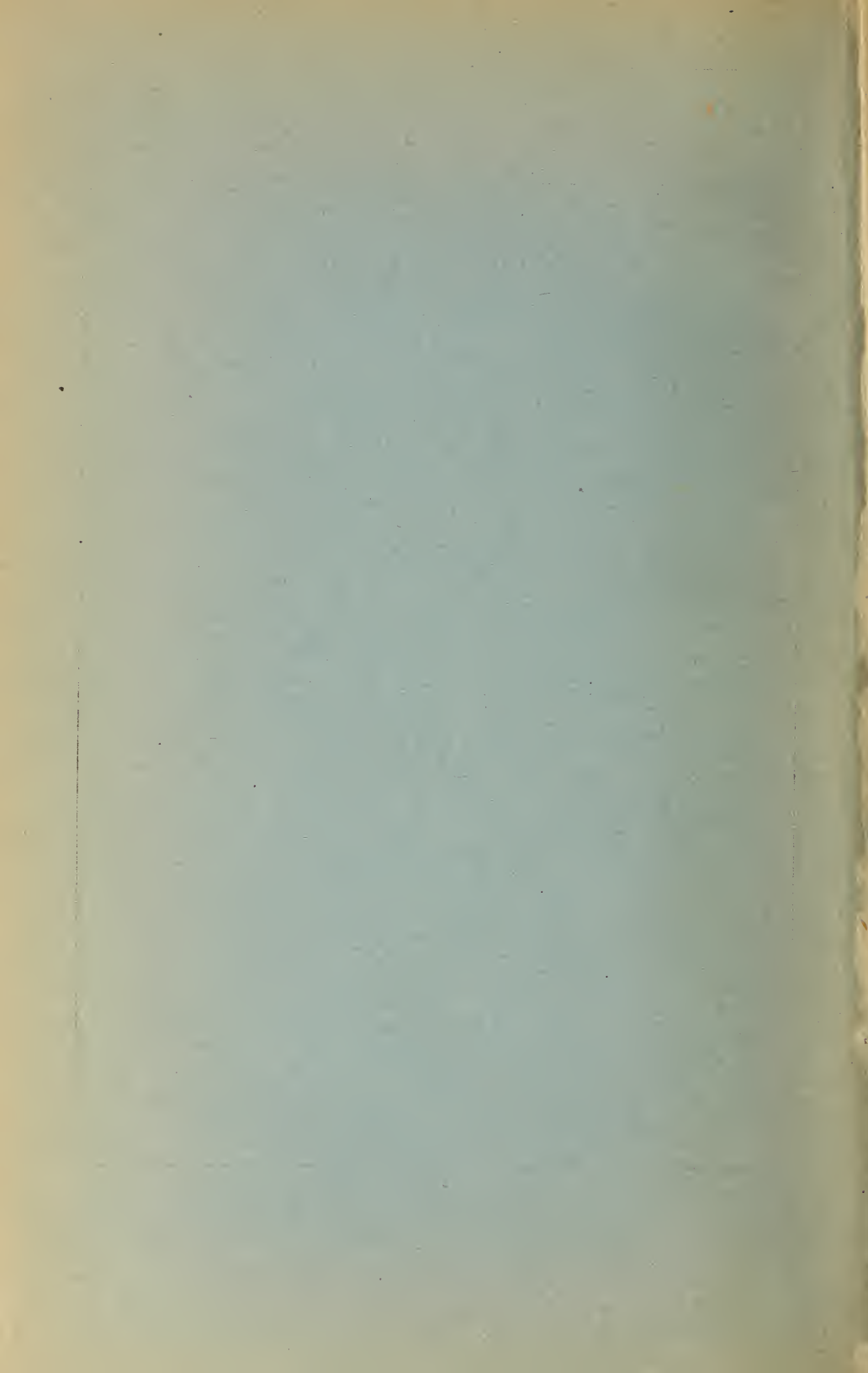
TO THE
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

1909



GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON
1909



NAVY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAJOR-GENERAL COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS,
Washington, D. C., October 1, 1909.

SIR: In compliance with the department's instructions of July 1, 1909, the undersigned has the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the United States Marine Corps for the last fiscal year, and, in connection therewith, to transmit the annual estimates for its support during the coming fiscal year.

During the period covered by this report inspections of the marine barracks at the navy-yards and stations, both in the United States and in the insular possessions thereof, have been made, as far as practicable, either by the undersigned or by officers of the adjutant and inspector's department. Such of the barracks as have not been inspected during the past year will be inspected in the near future. Favorable reports as to the personnel, so far as pertains to health and discipline, have generally been made of those posts which have been visited by the inspecting officers. Adverse criticism of some of the barracks has been made, due to their being obsolete both as to construction and capacity, but there is no way of obviating this unless Congress appropriates for new and necessary barracks.

PERSONNEL.

The undersigned, whilst fully realizing the necessity for the action taken by the department in not, at this time, approving the recommendation for increases of officers and enlisted men, yet deems it his duty, in view of the fact that he is directed to bring to the attention of the department the condition of the corps, to state that even if no action looking toward the increase of the personnel, both commissioned and enlisted, is immediately taken, nevertheless the condition is such as to necessitate such remedial action being taken in the near future if the discipline and efficiency of the corps are to be maintained. Data will be forwarded to the department, if desired, showing the present assignment of both officers and men and the duty being performed by them, from which it will be seen that they are performing duty of an extremely onerous character. Both officers and men are so continuously on duty as to prevent the necessary steps being taken to carry on their educational training as should be done. The undersigned finds himself compelled to permit the placing of enlisted men on duty prior to the time when they have attained such a state of efficiency as would properly warrant such assignment. New posts are being established, and those already established require greater complements, owing to the increased

area and work of the yards, and as a result the personnel of the corps is being strained to its utmost, and some action looking toward relief must be taken in the very near future.

MATÉRIEL.

During the past year the money appropriated by the Congress for the maintenance of the Marine Corps has been judiciously expended. The appropriation "Repair of barracks" has been utilized in making such minor repairs and alterations as were necessary to keep the barracks in proper condition for habitation. A great drain has been made on this appropriation because of the condition and requirements of many of the older barracks, especially that at Mare Island, to which special attention will be invited.

The report of the quartermaster of the corps shows that minor repairs and improvements have been made at all the stations.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The act entitled "An act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1910, and for other purposes," provided for the following public works:

To extend the marine barracks, by the erection of a wing thereto, at a cost not to exceed one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, navy-yard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

To complete the quartermaster's depot, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the purchase of ground adjoining such depot, twenty-five thousand dollars.

Toward the completion of the marine barracks, naval station, Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, one marine barracks, one hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars; and to complete six officers' quarters, fifty thousand dollars; in all, one hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars.

For the purchase of land adjoining the navy-yard, Charleston, South Carolina, as a reservation for the Marine Corps, six thousand five hundred dollars; in all, six thousand five hundred dollars.

To complete the marine garrison, navy-yard, Bremerton, Washington, one marine barracks, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and for officers' quarters, sixty thousand dollars; in all, two hundred and ten thousand dollars.

The necessary steps are being taken by the quartermaster of the corps to construct the above authorized public works.

PUBLIC WORKS CONTEMPLATED.

The department has approved the following estimates for public works for the Marine Corps for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911:

For the extension of marine officers' quarters and the improvement of grounds, navy-yard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, eighty thousand dollars.

For the extension of marine officers' quarters, marine barracks, Annapolis, Maryland, seventeen thousand five hundred dollars.

For the extension of marine officers' quarters, navy-yard, Norfolk, Virginia, forty-seven thousand five hundred dollars.

For the extension of the marine barracks, naval station, Cavite, Philippine Islands, thirty thousand dollars.

For the extension of marine officers' quarters, naval station, Cavite, Philippine Islands, thirty-six thousand dollars.

For the extension of the marine barracks, naval station, Olongapo, Philippine Islands, fifty-five thousand dollars.

For the extension of marine officers' quarters, naval station, Olongapo, Philippine Islands, thirty-six thousand dollars.

The necessity for the above public works was brought to the department's attention at the time when the estimates were submitted.

DEPOT OF SUPPLIES, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

The depot of supplies in Philadelphia, Pa., with the new additions which have been authorized, is nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy about the 1st of October. When the building is finally completed and machinery installed the depot will be fully equipped to manufacture many of the uniform garments for enlisted men which have heretofore, in some instances, been manufactured elsewhere. It is the intention, when the appropriations will permit, to install suitable machinery to manufacture certain articles of accouterments, such as knapsacks, haversacks, clothing bags, etc., which supplies are now secured from the army. It is expected that tents will also be made there in the future. Machinery for making clothing and packing boxes was installed in December last, which has resulted in a saving of from 10 to 15 per cent over the method of procuring such articles under contract from private manufacturers.

DEPOT OF SUPPLIES, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

The depot of supplies and staff offices of the Marine Corps in San Francisco are now in a rented building at the corner of Jackson and Battery streets. In this building, however, the storage facilities and office accommodations are inadequate, and steps have been taken looking toward the removal of the depot and staff offices to a more suitable and convenient location in a new building, it being the intention to keep sufficient supplies on hand at the San Francisco depot to fill requisitions not only from stations on that coast, but the colonial possessions in the Far East. This removal will take place when the new building is completed. It is important from an economical standpoint that the Government should, in the near future, provide an appropriation for the erection of a modern fireproof building at San Francisco for the exclusive use of the Marine Corps.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

The department's attention is again invited to the inadequacy of the space allotted to these headquarters in the Mills Building. The rooms are considerably overcrowded, with no storage space for a large proportion of the files and records, to which frequent reference has to be made. These records are mostly stored in a cellar at the marine barracks, Washington, D. C. While the quartermaster's department of the Marine Corps pays rent out of its regular appropriations for 21 rooms in the Mills Building, only 17 are occupied by the corps. It is suggested that if these 4 rooms were allotted to the corps the congested condition would at least be temporarily relieved, and it is therefore respectfully recommended that the 4 rooms, which were originally temporarily loaned to the naval disbursing officer and the Bureau of Yards and Docks, be reassigned to the Marine Corps.

MARE ISLAND, CAL.

The undersigned deems it his duty to invite the department's special attention to the condition of affairs at the navy-yard, Mare

Island, Cal. The barracks building at that station was erected in 1864, is of obsolete design and construction, and is entirely too small to accommodate the large number of men the demands of the service require to be kept at this station, consequently about 60 per cent of the enlisted men live in tents. The building was seriously damaged by the earthquake in April, 1906, and was condemned by a board of survey. A new barracks building and additional officers' quarters should immediately be provided at this station. Under existing conditions it requires a considerable outlay of money to keep the building, which is entirely inadequate, in as comfortable and habitable a condition as possible, even though at the best the men are crowded together in small, badly arranged rooms without regard to modern ideas of sanitation and health.

The four sets of junior officers' quarters at this post were built many years ago and are of frame construction, and fail to meet the present requirements of the service, besides being insufficient in number for the accommodation of the officers who are now and should be attached to this station, many of whom are obliged to draw commutation of quarters. It is earnestly urged that authority be given for modern quarters at this post at the same time that consideration is given to the question of new barracks.

NEW RIFLES.

The attention of the department is again invited to the fact that the rifles now in use by the Marine Corps are deteriorating and require replacement. In the last annual report of this office it was stated that the quartermaster of the corps had been directed to incorporate in the estimates a sufficient sum of money for the purchase of 10,000 new rifles and 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition. The appropriation for this purpose, however, was not made and the undersigned is therefore again compelled to bring to the attention of the department the necessity for an appropriation of about \$225,000 in order that the Marine Corps may be armed with the same rifle as is now being provided for the army, the navy, and the militia. No argument seems necessary to accentuate the fact that the efficient performance of duty, not only of the corps acting singly, but also in case of combined operations, requires that not only shall the corps be armed with the latest rifle, but that the arms used by all of the forces should be the same.

CESSION OF GROUND FOR NEW MARINE BARRACKS, PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

Under date of August 17, 1909, the undersigned requested that the department set aside a certain tract of land on Seaveys Island, navy-yard, Portsmouth, N. H., for a marine barracks and drill ground. This request was submitted to the commandant of said yard, who referred it to a board of officers, who recommended the assigning to the Marine Corps of a certain tract of land which is practically that suggested by the undersigned. The recommendation of the board was referred to this office for comment, and, under date of September 13, 1909, was returned to the department advising that the recommendation of the board be approved. In view of the fact that the naval

prison being built at the navy-yard, Portsmouth, N. H., will require a large detachment of marines, and as the present barracks are entirely inadequate for the demands of the yard exclusive of the prison, it is a matter of urgent necessity that steps be taken in the near future to provide for proper barrack accommodations, not only for the necessary marine detachment for the yard, but also for the prison. If the department cedes to the corps the reservation above referred to, the undersigned requests authority, when appearing before the Committee on Naval Affairs, to bring to the attention of that body the necessity for an immediate appropriation for the construction of barracks and officers' quarters, it being estimated that \$250,000 will be necessary for this purpose.

GUANTANAMO, CUBA.

Negotiations are now pending looking toward the turning over, for the use of the Marine Corps, the various buildings on Fishermans Point belonging to the army. When these are secured the command at Guantanamo will be fairly comfortably quartered.

LAUNDRIES.

The laundries which were authorized in the act approved June 30, 1906, have been installed at Philadelphia, Pa., and Norfolk, Va., and from reports received from those posts it has been found that they work satisfactorily and will result in economy to the Government. They are self-supporting, and besides washing the government linen, the enlisted men have their personal clothing washed there at a cheaper rate than in outside laundries and surrounded by better sanitary conditions. It would be a vast improvement over present conditions if these laundries were authorized for at least the large posts of the corps.

TOILET KITS.

As mentioned in the last annual report of this office, the necessary arrangements have been made by the quartermaster of the corps for the purchase of 2,000 toilet kits for gratuitous issue to recruits upon their first enlistment in the Marine Corps, the necessary money for this purpose having been appropriated in the appropriation act for the current fiscal year. These kits consist of the following articles:

1 razor.	1 shoe brush.
1 comb, medium.	2 huckaback towels.
1 housewife.	1 package russet shoe polish.
1 cake toilet soap.	1 hairbrush.
1 whisk broom.	1 toothbrush.
1 shaving brush.	1 package black shoe polish.

LEGATION GUARD AT PEKING, CHINA.

The legation guard at Peking is being maintained at the same strength and under the same conditions as in the past, and from reports received the condition of affairs in this command is most satisfactory.

BRIGADE IN PHILIPPINES.

During the past year the brigade in the Philippines has been maintained, as far as it has been possible so to do, up to the strength directed by the department. When men have been available they have been sent out to replace those whose tours of duty have expired, but at no time during the year were there as many men there as should have been in accordance with the department's instructions and as are necessary to properly perform the duty assigned to them. At the present time the strength of the command in the Philippines is 34 officers and 1,443 enlisted men.

The reports received from the brigade are, in all respects, of a very satisfactory character.

CUBA.

The provisional regiment of marines which served with the Army of Cuban Pacification from October 7, 1906, was withdrawn on January 23, 1909. Upon said withdrawal Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Barry, U. S. Army, commanding the Army of Cuban Pacification, placed on record a highly commendatory letter regarding the work performed by the marines while under his command. Said commendation is gratifying to the undersigned and no doubt equally so to the department.

PANAMA.

There have been no changes during the past year in the conditions surrounding the marine battalion serving on the Isthmus of Panama. The battalion at present consists of 9 officers and 361 enlisted men, and will be relieved in December of this year. The health of the command remains most excellent.

MOVEMENT OF DETACHMENTS.

During the year movements of detachments were made as the necessities of the service required and as was able to be done with the force at hand. It has not been possible, owing to the scarcity of men, to make such movements as is believed would add to the greatest efficiency of the service.

GOOD-CONDUCT MEDALS.

During the past year 252 good-conduct medals and 97 good-conduct medal bars have been issued to enlisted men of the corps. In view of the conditions under which these medals and bars are awarded, the above record shows a very satisfactory standard as to the men who reenlist in the corps.

CAMPAIGN BADGES.

Since the date of the last annual report from these headquarters, and in accordance with the provisions of Navy Department Special Order No. 82, dated June 27, 1909, campaign badges and bars were issued to officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps to commemorate services which have been rendered in campaigns as follows:

Forty-one civil war campaign badges and bars, 424 Spanish war campaign badges and bars, 200 China campaign badges and bars, and 591 Philippine campaign badges and bars.

In accordance with the provisions of General Order No. 35, Navy Department, August 13, 1909, Army of Cuban Pacification badges and bars will be issued to officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps as soon as received from the War Department.

In accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1909, civil war, Spanish-American, China, and Philippine campaign badges and bars will be issued to former officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps to commemorate services rendered in the above campaigns, upon application therefor, and as soon as received from the Bureau of Navigation.

INSTRUCTION OF COOKS.

The ration has been and is continually being improved, both as to the component parts and also as to the quality thereof. It is a well-recognized fact, however, that the best of food, if poorly handled, will produce worse results than poor food well handled. In other words, it is becoming more and more necessary, with the changed condition of affairs, that there should be a systematic instruction of cooks for the corps, and the undersigned, therefore, renews the recommendation previously made that the necessary legislation be secured to establish a school of instruction for cooks, with a view to the more economical and better preparation of the ration.

ADMINISTERING OF OATHS BY ASSISTANT ADJUTANTS AND INSPECTORS.

The act of March 3, 1901, which authorizes the assistant adjutant and inspector to administer oaths for the purposes of naval administration was enacted at a time when there was but one assistant adjutant and inspector in the corps, since which time the force of assistant adjutants and inspectors has been considerably augmented, and as these officers are being frequently ordered to conduct investigations, it is necessary for the administration of justice that they be authorized to administer oaths, and it is again, therefore, urgently recommended that the act above referred to be amended so as to authorize all the officers in the adjutant and inspector's department to administer oaths.

PROHIBITION AGAINST USE OF NAVAL BANDS.

In the last annual report of this office reference was made to the question which had arisen as to whether the Marine Band was a navy band and, therefore, subject to the prohibition contained in the act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909. At said time the matter was being considered by the Attorney-General of the United States, who, under date of November 9, 1908, rendered an opinion to the effect that the prohibition contained in the act above referred to did not pertain to the Marine Band, as it was not strictly a navy band.

EXAMINATIONS FOR PROMOTION OF OFFICERS.

The recommendation contained in the last annual report of this office to the effect that the law pertaining to the examination for promotion of officers of the Marine Corps be amended so that the moral examination shall precede the physical examination is, for the reasons previously urged, again renewed.

TRANSPORTS FOR THE MARINE CORPS.

The undersigned reiterates the recommendation made in his last annual report that a ship of the *Dixie* or *Panther* type be converted into a transport for the sole and exclusive use of the Marine Corps, said ship to be commanded and manned by officers and enlisted men of the navy, but for use solely as a transport for the corps. The reasons which were previously urged are as potent now as then and seem to the undersigned to be sufficient to warrant the renewal of this, his recommendation in the premises.

FINGER-PRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.

There are now in the files of the finger-print identification system of the corps, which was adopted July 1, 1907, about 14,000 records; of these, 8,700, approximately, are records of recruits, the balance being those of men in service at the date when the system was adopted. One hundred and five detections as to fraudulent enlistment have been made by this system, this being about one detection to each 83 recruits enlisted, and shows the advantages of the system. The undersigned, however, feels that so long as the different branches of the service work independently the best results will not follow, for it is only by the merest accident that the work of one office benefits any other office. A central clearing house will make every finger print taken available for the purpose of detecting fraudulent enlistments in all the services. The scheme of such a central clearing station is feasible and this matter, which has previously been commented upon, is again brought to the department's attention with the recommendation that steps be taken to provide for such a central clearing house for finger-print cards.

TARGET PRACTICE AND RANGES.

The need of additional ranges for the target practice of the posts of the Marine Corps, referred to in the last annual report of this office, has not been remedied. To overcome the lack of government ranges, especially for the larger posts, camps of instruction were established at Sea Girt, N. J., and Wakefield, Mass., on the Atlantic coast, and at Fort Barry, Cal., by courtesy of the United States Army on the west coast. While the results obtained have fully justified the expenditure for rentals and transportation, this plan is but a makeshift, and the acquiring of ranges for the exclusive use of the Marine Corps, especially in the vicinity of Mare Island, Cal., and New York, N. Y., is strongly recommended.

The range at Williamsburg, Va., was closed on August 12, 1909, it being believed that its inaccessibility and the high proportionate rental charged did not justify its existence. The abolition of this range will

be in a large measure compensated for by the establishing of a range at Stump Neck, near Indianhead, Md., the Navy Department having ceded to the Marine Corps sufficient land at this place to build a modern range. This range will be completely equipped with all the latest appliances and, if practicable, it will have at least twelve targets for each range, with additional targets for collective fire, in order to permit of record practice being completed as expeditiously as possible. It is intended that the Stump Neck range be utilized for target practice of the officers and men stationed at Norfolk, Va., Philadelphia, Pa., marine barracks, Washington, D. C., and marine barracks, navy-yard, Washington, D. C., and also for giving all officers a thorough course of instruction in rifle practice at such times as they can be spared from their posts. It is further expected that this range will be utilized for holding inter-post, division, and marine corps rifle team competitions, with both rifle and revolver.

To begin the building of this range an appropriation will be needed, and it is urged, in view of the importance of having such a range in this vicinity, that the undersigned be permitted to bring this matter to the attention of the House Committee on Naval Affairs and request an appropriation of \$30,000 to begin work to make this a model range for the use of the troops in this neighborhood. If the range be built, money will be saved in the transportation of men from various posts to other rifle ranges, as has been the custom in the past.

The range at Mare Island, Cal., only allows of qualification in the marksman's class, and in addition is constantly in use by the receiving ship and other ships that may be lying at the yard. It would thus appear that the purchase of two ranges is urgently required, one located in the vicinity of Mare Island, Cal., and the other preferably in Connecticut, for the use of the posts at New York, Boston, Portsmouth, and Newport. The undersigned purposes conferring with the Navy Department looking to the establishing of a joint range on the Pacific coast, it being understood that the department is desirous of establishing such a range on the west coast for the target practice of men of the Pacific Fleet.

Pending the establishing of the two ranges referred to, it is proposed that two camps of instruction be established during the next target season, one at Fort Barry, Cal., for use of marines stationed at Mare Island, the naval training station, San Francisco, and the marines of the Pacific Fleet, and the other at Wakefield, Mass., for the target practice of the posts at New York, N. Y.; Boston, Mass.; Portsmouth, N. H.; Newport, R. I.; Iona Island, N. Y.; Hingham, Mass.; and the marines of the United States Atlantic Fleet.

The following tables show the results of the work at the various camps of instruction during the year:

Sea Girt, N. J.—Practice held for officers and men from posts at Philadelphia, Pa.; New York, N. Y.; marine barracks, Washington, D. C.; marine barracks, navy-yard, Washington, D. C.; various detachments from vessels of the United States Atlantic Fleet; and the student class of officers at Port Royal, S. C.:

Number who fired	753
Expert riflemen	101
Sharpshooters	66
Marksmen	6

Wakefield, Mass.—Practice held for officers and men from Newport, R. I.; Boston, Mass.; marine barracks, Portsmouth, N. H.; naval prison, Portsmouth; and various detachments from vessels of the United States Atlantic Fleet:

Number who fired.....	614
Expert riflemen.....	14
Sharpshooters.....	52
Marksmen.....	26

Fort Barry, Cal.—Practice held for officers and men from Mare Island, Cal., and the naval training station, San Francisco, Cal.:

Number who fired.....	289
Expert riflemen.....	31
Sharpshooters.....	34
Marksmen.....	30

The figures given of the number of men firing and the number qualifying at Sea Girt, N. J., and the other camps of instruction are not a fair criterion of the relative efficiency of the camps. Consideration must be given to the fact that at Sea Girt there was a much larger number of officers and expert instructors than at other camps of instruction.

The following table shows the comparative results of target practice on the range for the target years 1907, 1908, and 1909 to date:

	1907.	1908.	1909 to date.
Expert riflemen.....	44	77	222
Sharpshooters.....	74	207	369
Marksmen.....	112	285	203
Total.....	230	569	794

It is worthy of note that the increase in qualification has been mainly in the higher grades, those of expert riflemen and sharpshooters.

The following table shows the approximate number of officers and enlisted men now graded as expert riflemen, sharpshooters, or marksmen; also the approximate number of enlisted men now drawing pay by reason of qualifications under the Small Arms Firing Regulations, 1908:

	Expert riflemen.	Sharpshooters.	Marksmen.	Total.
Qualified 1908.....	77	207	285	569
Hold over 1908.....	6	28	29	63
Qualified 1909.....	222	369	203	794
Total.....	305	604	517	1,426
Deducting those who qualified twice.....	33	37	61	131
Officers and men now graded.....	272	567	456	1,295
Officers.....	50	41	18	109
Men drawing pay.....	222	526	438	1,186

It is believed that the increased number of qualifications shown for the target year 1909 is due largely, if not entirely, to the policy of

distributing members of the marine corps rifle team among the various posts to act as instructors in rifle practice, which was inaugurated at the close of the national matches last year. The posts at which these men were located not only derived great benefit from their expert instruction on the range and in the care of the rifle, but, above all, from the material stimulation of interest in target practice which their work produced.

Owing to the thorough instruction given at Sea Girt, N. J., a much larger number of officers and men will be available for this duty during the coming year, and it is believed that the results will be commensurate with the increased number available.

RIFLE TEAM.

The marine corps rifle team this year was selected at Sea Girt, N. J. Capt. William C. Harlee, U. S. Marine Corps, was team captain. Preliminary practice and trying out of candidates were held during May and June, the competition for the team being held June 26, 1909. It is worthy of note that but few veteran riflemen made the team this year.

The candidates for the team to participate in the national match, numbering 4 officers and 36 enlisted men, under charge of Captain Harlee, left Sea Girt, N. J., for Camp Perry, Ohio, August 6, 1909, arriving at the latter place on August 7, 1909.

The Marine Corps entered individuals and teams in the following matches, with the results indicated:

AT CAMP PERRY, OHIO.

Ohio State Rifle Association matches:

- Hale match (individual), 2, 4, 5, 8, and 9.
- Adjutant-General's cup match (individual), 4 and 6.
- All comers' off-hand match (individual), 1.
- Herrick trophy match; team C, No. 3; team B, No. 5.
- Second Brigade match (individual), 6 and 7.
- Buckeye match (individual), 2.
- All comers' long range aggregate match (individual), 1.
- Du Pont individual tyro match, 1.
- Catrow match, 1, 2, 3, and 8.

National team match, No. 9.

National Rifle Association matches:

- Wimbledon cup match (individual), 1 and 2.
- Individual long tyro match, 2 and 6.
- Marine corps match (individual), 1, 2, 4, and 8.
- President's match (individual), 8 and 9.

AT SEA GIRT, N. J.

- Hale match (individual), 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8.
- Officers' and inspectors' match, 1.
- McAlpin match (team), 1.
- Dryden trophy match (team), 2.

Attention is invited to the fact that Pvt. Albert J. Doermann, U. S. Marine Corps, broke the world's record at 200 yards in the all comers' off-hand match, score 98, as also did First Sergt. John W. Hingle, U. S. Marine Corps, at 800, 900, and 1,000 yards, in the Catrow match, score 105.

The evidencing of qualifications by orders instead of by individual certificates, as formerly, has worked well, reducing largely the work in the office of the inspector of target practice, and stimulating interest and pride in marksmanship by its publicity.

The publication of General Order No. 33, Navy Department, dated April 28, 1909, is believed to be a long step in the right direction, providing as it does for the compulsory holding of post, interpost, division, and marine corps competitions. The healthy rivalry thus instituted can not but be of great benefit to small-arms target practice. It is purposed to instruct commanding officers of posts, when ranges are not available, to make preliminary arrangements for the rental of ranges and other details, as authorized in paragraph 33(j), General Order No. 33, Navy Department, 1909.

NAVY MAIL CLERKS.

In the last annual report of this office the attention of the department was invited to the fact that by the act approved May 27, 1908, enlisted men of the Marine Corps were debarred from being selected and designated as "Navy mail clerks" and "Assistant navy mail clerks." It is not believed that it was the intention of the framers of the law to deprive enlisted men of the Marine Corps of these appointments, especially in view of the fact that from time out of mind the mail on board ships of the navy has been handled by enlisted men of the Marine Corps without increased remuneration. It therefore does not seem proper that now since there is a pecuniary benefit attached thereto the enlisted men of the corps should be deprived of such benefits. It is again, therefore, earnestly recommended that the legislation above referred to be amended so as to make it applicable to enlisted men of the Marine Corps.

PRISON GUARDS.

The department has, upon repeated occasions, brought to the attention of these headquarters the necessity and desirability of changing as little as possible the enlisted men ordered to duty on the various prison ships and at the prisons. The undersigned fully realizes the importance of this matter and has attempted to carry out the directions of the department, but he has not at all times been able so to do, because of the fact that the number of men in the service will not permit the segregating of such a large number of men in one place and removing them from the ordinary routine work which is assigned the corps. It is respectfully suggested that to remedy this matter the undersigned be authorized, when he appears before the House Committee on Naval Affairs, to bring to the attention of the committee the desirability of inserting in the naval appropriation act a proviso to the effect that "the marine detachments serving on board prison ships and at prisons shall be in addition to the number of enlisted men authorized by law." This proviso will be similar to that now in force relative to prisoners.

WITHDRAWAL OF MARINES FROM SHIPS.

In accordance with the executive order of November 12, 1908, marine detachments were withdrawn from the following vessels of

the navy: *California, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, Washington, Charleston, New Hampshire, Mississippi, Tennessee, Connecticut, Maine, North Carolina, and Vermont.*

In compliance with the proviso in the naval appropriation act approved March 3, 1909, the marine detachments were restored to the ships from which they had been taken, and also placed on all battle ships and armored cruisers in accordance with the provisions of said act.

RECRUITING.

The fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, was not as successful, so far as pertains to recruiting, as was the preceding year, in view of the fact that in that year there were enlisted 5,294 men, a monthly average of 441.2, whereas during the current fiscal year 4,115 men were enlisted, a monthly average of 343. It is believed that the decrease in the number of men enlisted below that of the previous fiscal year was largely due to increased business activity throughout the country. It is the purpose of the undersigned, in the fall, after the crops have been moved, to increase the number of recruiting stations, especially in smaller towns convenient to the rural population. Notwithstanding the reduced activity in recruiting, the number of enlisted men in the corps increased from July 1, 1908, to June 30, 1909, from 8,827 to 9,265, making an actual increase of 438 men. The corps at the present time is 436 men short of its authorized enlisted strength. There are 11 recruiting districts, with 38 stations.

The undersigned has not been able, owing to the condition of the personnel of the corps, to select officers for recruiting duty so as to lead to the best results. It is hoped that in the near future he will be able to make such selections as will, in his opinion, greatly add to and stimulate recruiting.

SALARIES OF CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.

The undersigned respectfully renews the recommendation made in the annual reports for the years 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900, respectively, and in various special communications (the last dated September 1, 1909), that the classified civilian employees of his office and of the several staff offices of the Marine Corps be placed on a footing more nearly equal, as regards pay, to that of like employees of other governmental offices and bureaus, particularly those of the Navy Department.

Attention is invited to the fact that, barring the increase of three of them from \$1,540.80 to \$1,600 in 1904, the salaries (\$1,600) of the chief clerks of the four offices at these headquarters are precisely the same as they were many years ago, when the amount of work and the responsibilities devolving upon said chief clerks were probably less than one-quarter of what they are now with the greatly increased strength of the corps and the corresponding increase of business. The latter figure, it may be noted, is not the one now allowed chief clerks in nearly all cases, but is the salary which was fixed by Congress in 1853—not specifically for chief clerks, but for clerical employees of class 3. As early as 1863 six of the eight chief clerks in the department were allowed \$1,800, and in 1899 the salaries of all said chief clerks were increased to \$2,000. Many chief clerks in other departments receive salaries greatly in excess of those in effect

at these headquarters, chief clerks receiving less than \$2,000 per annum being extremely rare. Many of them are allowed much more. In fact, hundreds of subordinate clerks employed elsewhere receive \$200 per annum more than the chief clerks at these headquarters.

The present incumbents of the four chief clerkships here have been in the service from eleven to twenty-one years, are required to supervise from 16 to 42 employees each, and are thoroughly efficient.

What has been stated of the chief clerks is generally applicable to the other classified employees. In this connection attention is invited to the fact that the second clerk in the major-general commandant's office is not only on a relatively lower basis of salary than clerks occupying similar positions in the bureaus of the department, but is receiving \$300 less per annum than the other second class clerks at headquarters.

The undersigned respectfully requests authority to lay the above facts before the Naval Committee of the House during the next session of Congress.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS.

Under the provisions of article 1415, paragraph 3, Navy Regulations, 1909 (citing sec. 3622, Rev. Stat., as amended by the acts of Feb. 27, 1877, and July 31, 1894, 28 Stat. L., 209), the administrative examination by the paymaster's office of the accounts of all assistant paymasters was made possible. This examination has been of the greatest benefit to the officers of the paymaster's department in that they are now notified within one month of the date of the receipt of their accounts of all errors found therein, and may take immediate steps to rectify the same. This inures not only to their benefit, but also to that of all persons in the service where a short credit has been found. Copies of the result of such administrative examinations of each officer's accounts are sent immediately to all officers of the paymaster's department for their guidance, and this practice has resulted in a marked decrease in errors since its institution.

CLERKS TO ASSISTANT PAYMASTERS.

The civilian clerks to assistant paymasters of the Marine Corps are at present appointed through the Navy Department from the "classified service" as "clerk in the office of the assistant paymaster, United States Marine Corps," naming the office to which appointed. This practice has many objections and has proved unwieldy in its workings. Under the present situation a clerk can not accompany his assistant paymaster without a formal transfer effected through the Navy Department. Such transfer involves a revocation of the clerk's existing appointment and the issuance of a new one.

It is therefore recommended that the undersigned be permitted to bring this matter to the attention of the House Committee on Naval Affairs during the coming session of Congress, with a view to having the following provision inserted in the naval appropriation act for the coming year:

Provided, That hereafter clerks to assistant paymasters of the United States Marine Corps shall be available for duty where their services are required, and shall receive the same pay, allowances, and benefits as are now or may hereafter be provided for paymaster's clerks in the army of corresponding length of service.

ASSISTANT PAYMASTER'S OFFICE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

An office of the paymaster's department was opened in New York N. Y., on May 1, 1909, for the purpose of taking up the accounts of all the posts from New York to the northward. The establishing of this office has greatly lessened the work of the office of the paymaster at these headquarters, and will be of great benefit to the corps in expediting the payment of officers and troops at the posts and stations above referred to.

DEPOSITS.

Great benefits have accrued to the service by the present system of deposits. A spirit of thrift has been engendered amongst the enlisted personnel and the amount of deposits has increased during the present fiscal year.

COMMENDATORY LETTERS.

The undersigned is gratified to report that during the past year commendatory letters have been sent to officers and enlisted men of the corps for special services rendered, and that there have been filed at these headquarters letters of commendation bearing on the corps as a whole.

CEREMONIES.

During the past year the corps has, as in the past, been requested to participate frequently in public ceremonies of every character, and wherever it has been practicable said requests have been complied with. In many cases invitations had to be declined owing to the impossibility of securing the necessary officers and men to participate.

STAFF DEPARTMENTS.

The work devolving upon the various staff departments of the corps has been greatly increased owing to the necessities of the service, and the undersigned is pleased to report that the work done by said departments meets with his approval, as it has been of the most efficient character.

ARMY COURTESIES.

The undersigned is pleased to place upon record the courtesies extended to the corps by the officers of the War Department, which have been continued during the past year.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

The appointments and promotions in both the line and staff of the corps which were made during the past year are fully recorded in the files of the department, and no further reference thereto is deemed necessary.

RETIREMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, DEATHS, AND DISMISSALS.

During the year there were three retirements, three resignations, and three deaths, and one officer was dismissed from the service by sentence of general court-martial.

RETIRED OFFICERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

During the past year nine officers on the retired list have been employed on active duty in accordance with directions from the Secretary of the Navy. This has materially aided the undersigned in making assignments of officers on active duty to their legitimate duties.

ENLISTED FORCE.

The enlistments and reenlistments in the Marine Corps during the past year have been as follows:

Enlistments	3, 119
Reenlistments:	
From Marine Corps.....	579
From Army	113
Joined from desertion.....	179
	<hr/> 871
Total	3, 990
Discharged, deserted, retired, and died.....	3, 666
	<hr/>
Net gain	324

DISTRIBUTION OF FORCE.

The following is the general distribution of the officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps at the present time:

	Officers.	Enlisted men.
On shore duty within the territorial limits of the United States.....	219	4, 021
On shore duty outside the territorial limits of the United States.....	66	2, 681
On board ships in commission.....	49	2, 498
Total.....	<hr/> 334	<hr/> 9, 200
Number of officers allowed by law.....		334
Number of enlisted men allowed by law.....		9, 521
In service August 31, 1909:		
Officers		334
Enlisted men.....		9, 200

In conclusion the undersigned desires to state that the recommendations herein made, both referring to the personnel and the matériel, have been very carefully considered, and trusts they will receive favorable consideration on the part of the department.

Very respectfully,

G. F. ELLIOTT,
Major-General, Commandant.

The SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Major-General Commandant of the
United States Marine Corps

TO THE
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

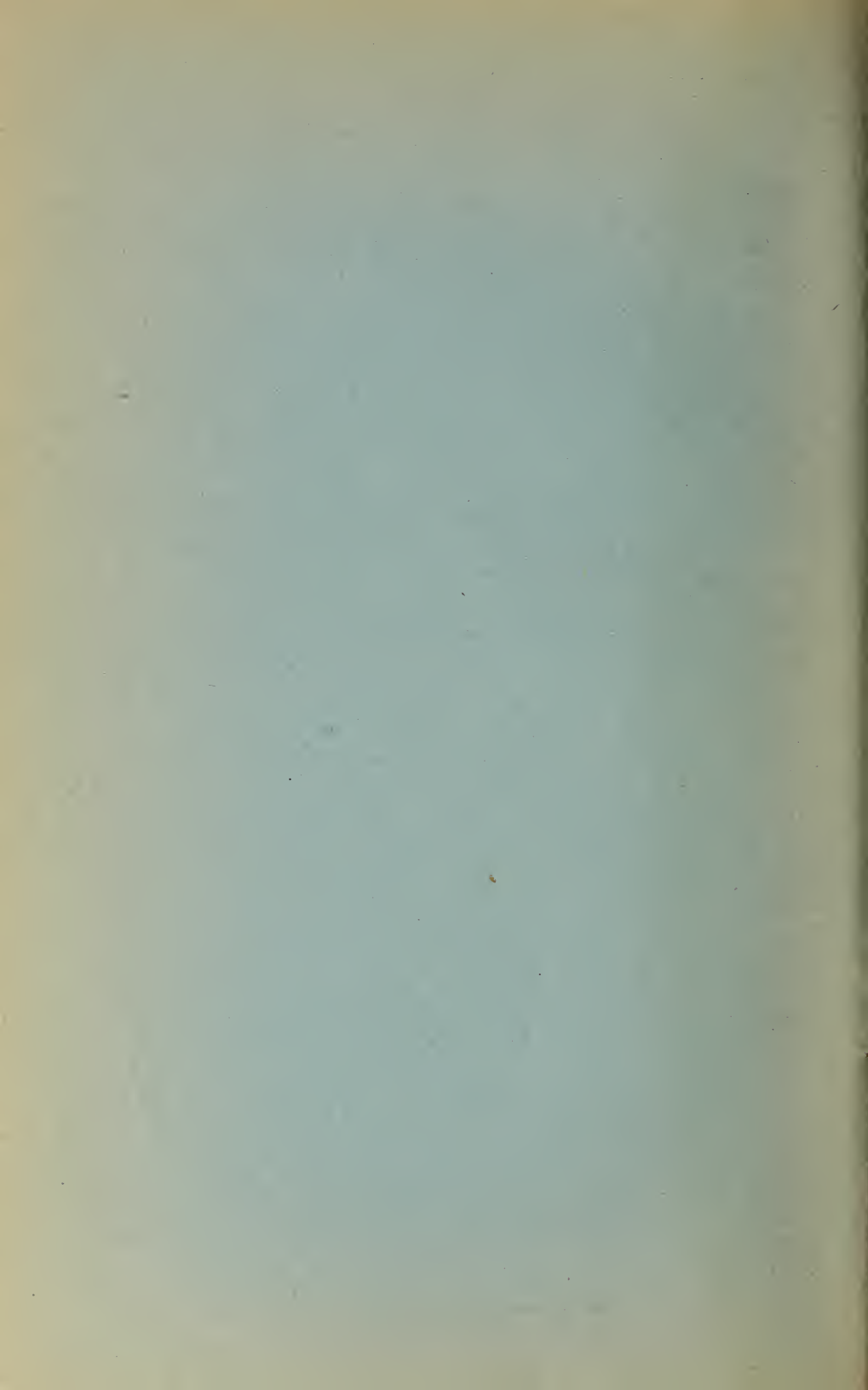
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

1910



GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAJOR-GENERAL COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1910.

SIR: In compliance with the department's instructions of July 28, 1910, I have the honor to submit this, my last annual report before being placed upon the retired list, November 30, 1910, in conformity with law, of the condition and service of the United States Marine Corps for the last fiscal year, and, in connection therewith, to transmit the annual estimates for its support during the coming fiscal year.

During the period covered by this report inspections of the marine barracks at the navy-yards and stations, both in the United States and in the insular possessions thereof, have been made, as far as practicable, either by the undersigned or by officers of the adjutant and inspector's department. Such of the barracks as have not been inspected during the past year will be inspected in the near future. Favorable reports as to the personnel, so far as pertains to health and discipline, have generally been made of those posts which have been visited by the inspecting officers. Adverse criticism of some of the barracks has been made, due to their being obsolete both as to construction and capacity, but there is no way of obviating this unless Congress appropriates for new and necessary barracks.

PERSONNEL.

At all of the stations of the corps in the United States the enlisted men are called upon to perform arduous duty. Both officers and men are so continuously on guard duty as to prevent instruction in educational training to a degree detrimental to the high standard wished for in the enlisted man. The undersigned finds himself compelled to permit the placing of enlisted men on duty prior to the time when they have attained such a state of efficiency as would properly warrant such assignment. New posts have been established at New London, Conn.; Winthrop, Md.; the naval prison, Boston, Mass.; the United States Naval Medical School Hospital, Washington, D. C.; the United States Naval Hospital, New York, N. Y.; and the United States Naval Hospital, Las Animas, Colo., and those already established require greater complements, owing to the increased area and work of the yards, and as a result the personnel of the corps is being strained to its utmost, and some action looking toward relief must be taken in the very near future.

MATÉRIEL.

During the past year the money appropriated by the Congress for the maintenance of the Marine Corps has been judiciously expended. The appropriation, "Repair of barracks," has been utilized in making

such minor repairs and alterations as were necessary to keep the barracks in proper condition for habitation. A great drain has been made on this appropriation because of the condition and requirements of many of the older barracks, especially that at Mare Island, Cal.

The report of the officer in charge of the quartermaster's department of the corps shows that minor repairs and improvements have been made during the past year at all the stations.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The act entitled "An act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, and for other purposes," provided for the following:

For the extension of marine officers' quarters and the improvement of ground, navy-yard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, seventy thousand dollars.

For the extension of marine officers' quarters, navy-yard, Norfolk, Virginia, forty-seven thousand five hundred dollars.

The necessary steps are being taken by the officer in charge of the quartermaster's department of the corps to construct the above authorized public works.

PUBLIC WORKS CONTEMPLATED.

The department has approved the following estimates for public works for the Marine Corps for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912:

For fireproof barracks, improving grounds, sewerage, etc., at the navy-yard, Boston, Mass-----	\$100,000
For officers' quarters at navy-yard, Boston, Mass-----	48,000
Toward the completion of the marine garrison, navy-yard, Philadelphia, Pa-----	250,000
For officers' quarters, including piling, navy-yard, Philadelphia, Pa---	40,000
For the extension of existing quarters, buildings, mess hall, etc., increasing rifle-range facilities, and the improvement of target butts, Marine Corps rifle range, Winthrop, Md-----	20,000
	<hr/> 458,000

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

The undersigned deems it his duty to again invite the attention of the department to the inadequacy of the space allotted to these headquarters in the Mills Building. Not only does the crowded condition of the rooms interfere with the efficient performance of duty by the clerical force, but it is believed constitutes a menace to the health of the clerks employed, due to improper ventilation and lighting facilities.

DEPOT OF SUPPLIES, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Extension B to the depot of supplies of the Marine Corps was completed in October, 1909. As the appropriations will admit, modern machinery is gradually being installed at the depot to manufacture articles of uniform clothing for enlisted men, which, to a certain extent, has heretofore been manufactured elsewhere; also to manufacture canteens, clothing bags, haversacks, and other articles of accouterment. This will cause a considerable saving to the Government. In addition to this, all the packing boxes, formerly procured

in the open market, are now being manufactured at the depot, which resulted during the past year in a saving of about \$5,000.

Additional ground should be purchased and an addition to this depot should be built, in order to manufacture all equipage and clothing, except shoes, for 10,000 men. Such an addition would result in an actual saving to the Government.

DEPOT OF SUPPLIES, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Early in the fiscal year the depot of supplies in San Francisco, Cal., was moved to a large, modern, fireproof building on the corner of Second and Howard streets. This building accommodates all the staff offices of the corps on the west coast, and all supplies are issued from this depot to the stations on the Pacific coast and the island possessions, excepting the Philippines. Marine detachments of vessels in adjacent waters are also outfitted from this depot.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Under date of February 17, 1910, a contract was awarded for the construction of an extension to the present marine barracks building at the navy-yard, Philadelphia, Pa., for the sum of \$118,440, and this work will shortly be commenced. The act of Congress approved June 24, 1910, appropriated \$70,000 for the purpose of erecting an extension to the marine officers' quarters and the improvement of grounds at this post, and bids for this work will shortly be opened. In the estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912, approved by the department, an item of \$250,000 has been inserted for the purpose of completing the marine garrison at the navy-yard, Philadelphia, and this amount, together with the amounts already appropriated, will, when the work is finally completed, make the post at Philadelphia thoroughly modern in all respects. Philadelphia is rapidly becoming the most important post of the Marine Corps. It is at this station that nearly all expeditionary forces are mobilized and equipped and from there transferred to their destination, especially so in view of the fact that the depot of supplies of the Marine Corps is located in that city.

It is hoped that in the near future Philadelphia can be made a depot for the instruction of all recruits enlisted in the East, as well as the location of the Marine Officers' School and the Advanced Base School, which are now located at Port Royal, S. C., and New London, Conn., respectively. Philadelphia is considered an ideal place for the purposes above mentioned, inasmuch as it is practically the most central point from which men can be distributed to the various stations of the corps on the Atlantic coast and to vessels of the United States Atlantic Fleet. When the building operations now under way and contemplated are completed Philadelphia will be able to accommodate practically a full regiment of marines.

MARINE CORPS RIFLE RANGE, WINTHROP, MD.

The rifle range permanently established by the Marine Corps at Winthrop, Md., is a model one in every respect and has every facility of an up-to-date range. This range is easily accessible for the posts at Norfolk, Va., Annapolis, Md., Philadelphia, Pa., and the

two posts of the corps in Washington. In the estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912, which have been approved by the department, an item of \$20,000 has been inserted for the purpose of extending the present quarters, increasing the rifle-range facilities, and the improvement of the target butts at this place. Necessary buildings of a temporary nature have been erected for the housing of the permanent detachment stationed at Winthrop, which at present consists of 4 officers and 86 enlisted men.

During the present year range practice, beginning about May 15, was held for the officers and enlisted men from the marine barracks, Philadelphia, Pa., Annapolis, Md., the two posts in Washington, Norfolk, Va., and Charleston, S. C. This range is far from complete; but if \$20,000 is allotted for necessary improvements, it will be in excellent working order. At present detachments arriving from other posts are placed under canvas (a very expensive means of housing).

PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

The present barracks at the navy-yard, Portsmouth, N. H., are entirely inadequate for the demands of the yard, and it is a matter of urgent necessity that steps be taken in the near future to provide for proper barracks accommodations not only for the marine garrison at the yard, but also for the detachment stationed at the naval prison at that place, and in view of the fact that the department, under date of September 24, 1909, set aside a piece of land on Seavey's Island as a reservation for marine barracks and drill grounds, it is respectfully requested that the Major-General Commandant be authorized, when appearing before the House Committee on Naval Affairs during the coming session of Congress, to bring to the attention of that body the necessity for an immediate appropriation for the construction of barracks and officers' quarters, improvement of grounds, etc., at Portsmouth, it being estimated that \$250,000 will be necessary for this purpose.

MARE ISLAND, CAL.

The undersigned deems it his duty to again invite the department's special attention to the condition of affairs at the navy-yard, Mare Island, Cal. The barracks building at that station was erected in 1864, is of obsolete design and construction, and is entirely too small to accommodate the large number of men the demands of the service require to be kept at this station, consequently about 60 per cent of the enlisted men live in tents. The building was seriously damaged by the earthquake in 1906, and was condemned by a board of survey. A new barracks building and additional officers' quarters should be provided for this station immediately. Under existing conditions it requires a considerable outlay of money to keep the building, which is entirely inadequate, in as comfortable and habitable a condition as possible, even though at the best the men are crowded together in small, badly arranged rooms, without regard to modern ideas of sanitation and health.

The four sets of junior officers' quarters at this post were built many years ago, are of frame construction, and fail to meet the present requirements of the service, besides being insufficient for the

accommodation of the officers who are now and should be attached to this station, many of whom are obliged to draw commutation of quarters. It is earnestly urged that authority be given for modern quarters at this post at the same time that consideration is given to the question of new barracks.

NEW RIFLES.

The attention of the department is again invited to the fact that the rifles now in use by the Marine Corps are obsolete and deteriorating, and require replacement. In the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, and for other purposes," approved June 24, 1910, the sum of \$50,000 was appropriated for the purchase of new rifles, and with this sum, augmented by an allotment from the current appropriation "Military stores," 4,000 new rifles, complete, were purchased from the army, the total cost of same being \$79,811.50. Twelve hundred (1,200) of these new rifles were sent to the Philippine Islands via the U. S. S. *Buffalo*, for the purpose of equipping the enlisted men of the First Brigade, U. S. Marines, there, leaving 2,800 for distribution to the force stationed on shore in the United States, i. e., 4,422 men, which will only be sufficient to equip about 60 per cent of the latter force.

Under date of August 17, 1910, this office was informed by the department that the necessary steps had been taken to equip all battle ships and armored cruisers in commission with the new model Springfield rifle, equipments, and ammunition, immediately after the ensuing battle practice, upon arrival of the ships concerned at their home yards. This will require about 1,200 of the rifles now on hand.

In order to properly equip the Marine Corps with the new Springfield rifle it is necessary that 6,000 rifles, complete, with the necessary ammunition, be purchased, and for this purpose the undersigned respectfully recommends that an appropriation of \$185,000 be made with which to purchase the above-mentioned number of rifles and 2,000,000 rounds of ammunition for the same.

No argument seems necessary to accentuate the fact that the efficient performance of duty, not only of the corps acting singly, but also in case of combined operations, requires that not only shall the corps be armed with the latest rifles, but that the arms used by all the forces should be the same. To sum up the situation, the men of the Marine Corps are armed and drilled with two models of rifles which differ in all respects, even in the kind of ammunition used. This condition needs no further comment.

The undersigned respectfully requests that authority be granted the Major-General Commandant to lay the above facts before the Naval Committee of the House during the next session of the Congress.

NEW LONDON, CONN.

The buildings at the naval station, New London, Conn., which were turned over to the Marine Corps by the Navy, having been extensively improved during the past year, the Advanced Base School, United States Marine Corps, was established there on July

13, 1910. The course at this school will embrace both practical and theoretical instruction in advanced base work, the erection of temporary fortifications, laying of mines, etc., and it is hoped that excellent results will be obtained.

The marine detachment stationed at this place consists of 10 officers and 50 enlisted men at present, but it is the intention of this office, from time to time, as officers and men are available, to augment the strength of the command materially.

MARINE OFFICERS' SCHOOL, PORT ROYAL, S. C.

The Marine Officers' School at Port Royal is progressing favorably, the locality having been found to be very desirable and the old buildings at the station, to which extensive repairs and improvements were made by the corps, have been used to advantage in carrying out the details of the school, but it is absolutely necessary that extensive repairs be made to these buildings if the post is to be continued for an extended period.

On December 22, 1909, 27 of the recently appointed second lieutenants of the corps were graduated from the school, and a class of 24, which is now undergoing instruction, will be graduated about December 20 of the present year. The course of instruction at the school has been very thorough, and the results achieved, particularly with the class now under instruction, have been extremely satisfactory and gratifying to the undersigned.

It is now desired to retain this station, in order to send there detachments for ships preparatory to sea service for a period of two months' instruction prior to going on board. This station is excellently equipped for this purpose.

GUANTANAMO, CUBA.

Conditions at this station have been somewhat improved by reason of the fact that the army has turned over to the Marine Corps its storehouses and all property, exclusive of certain engineer property, on Fishermans Point. An incinerator has been installed, and the old temporary frame buildings have been screened, and the command is now fairly comfortably quartered.

PANAMA.

The conditions surrounding the marine battalion stationed on the Isthmus of Panama are practically the same as at the date of the last annual report of this office. The battalion at present consists of 15 officers and 440 enlisted men, and will in all probability be relieved by another battalion in December of this year. Reports received show that the health of the command has been excellent during the past year.

The site occupied by the marine camp at Bas Obispo will soon become an island, as on the completion of the Gatun Dam the adjacent territory will be flooded and become unfit for use as a camp site. The buildings now used by the marines at Bas Obispo were all built by the French many years ago, and no appropriation has ever been allowed for the purpose of erecting new quarters or improving the

old ones, and although the President, while Secretary of War, strenuously recommended that proper quarters be built, nothing has ever been done toward such improvement.

NICARAGUAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

An expeditionary regiment consisting of 32 officers and 709 enlisted men, under command of Col. James E. Mahoney, U. S. Marine Corps, sailed on the U. S. S. *Prairie* from Philadelphia, Pa., December 2, 1909, for Nicaragua. The regiment was transferred from the *Prairie* to the U. S. S. *Dixie* on December 5, 1909, sailing from a point on the Delaware River below Philadelphia for Cristobal, Canal Zone, on the same day, and arrived at the latter point December 12. The regiment was disembarked at Cristobal on December 12 and re-embarked the same day on the U. S. S. *Buffalo*, and proceeded to Corinto, Nicaragua, arriving at that place December 20, 1909, where it remained until March 15, 1910. The regiment returned to Balboa, Canal Zone, on the *Buffalo*, March 23, 1910, where it was disembarked and went into camp at Las Cascadas, Canal Zone, remaining there until April 14, 1910, when it was embarked on the *Prairie* and left for the United States on April 15, arriving at the navy-yard, Philadelphia, Pa., on April 25.

On December 11, 1909, Col. William P. Biddle, U. S. Marine Corps, was directed to take command of the first and second regiments, which were organized into an expeditionary brigade. The second regiment, consisting of 30 officers and 712 enlisted men, was commanded by Lieut. Col. Eli K. Cole, U. S. Marine Corps, and sailed from Philadelphia, Pa., on the U. S. S. *Prairie* December 14, 1909, arriving on the Canal Zone December 24, where it was disembarked and took station at Camp Elliott, Canal Zone, the same date, remaining at that place until April 14, 1910, when, with the exception of 3 officers and 200 enlisted men, it embarked on the U. S. S. *Prairie* and sailed for the United States, arriving at the navy-yard, Philadelphia, on April 25. Three officers and 200 enlisted men embarked on the U. S. S. *Buffalo* on April 13, 1910, and sailed for the navy-yard, Mare Island, Cal., where they were disembarked on May 5, 1910.

A battalion of the First Expeditionary Regiment remained at Camp Elliott, Canal Zone, relieving the detachment regularly stationed at that post. The battalion relieved (7 officers and 383 enlisted men) returned to the United States on the *Prairie*, arriving at the navy-yard, Philadelphia, Pa., on March 30, 1910.

From reports received from the commanding officer of the Nicaraguan expeditionary force it appears that the health of the entire command was excellent during its stay in the Tropics, and the commandant of the Nicaraguan Expeditionary Squadron (Rear-Admiral W. W. Kimball, U. S. Navy) under date of March 15, 1910, sent the following letter to the commanding officer of the First Expeditionary Regiment:

U. S. S. ALBANY, FLAGSHIP.
Corinto, Nicaragua, March 15, 1910.

SIR: You will please convey to the officers and men of the First Regiment of Marines, Expeditionary Brigade, the high appreciation of the commander of the Nicaraguan Expeditionary Squadron of the manner in which you and

the officers and men under your command have met the effects, usually so destructive to discipline and efficiency, of a long stay in a transport in the Tropics, accompanied by a succession of disappointments of hopes for service in the field.

Under such conditions, the facts that the fine morale of the regiment has been maintained and that fitness, efficiency, and resourcefulness have steadily increased should give you a feeling of proper pride in duty done to you and your command.

Under date of May 27, 1910, in accordance with cable orders from this office, Maj. Smedley D. Butler, U. S. Marine Corps, with a battalion consisting of 6 officers and 200 enlisted men from Camp Elliott, Isthmian Canal Zone, embarked on the U. S. S. *Dubugue* at Colon, Panama, on May 29, 1910, and proceeded to Bluefields, Nicaragua. This battalion remained at Bluefields guarding American interests at that place until September 4, 1910, when it returned to Colon on the U. S. S. *Tacoma* and resumed its proper station at Camp Elliott. Reports received here show that the health of the command was excellent during its stay at Bluefields, there being practically no sickness in the command.

HONOLULU.

At the present time the marine command at Honolulu, consisting of 10 officers and 391 enlisted men, is quartered in tents, there being no permanent quarters available. In the act approved March 31, 1909, Congress appropriated \$50,000 and \$135,000 for the erection of officers' quarters and barracks, respectively, at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and bids for this construction work will be opened at an early date.

BRIGADE IN PHILIPPINES.

During the past year the brigade in the Philippines has been maintained, as far as it has been possible so to do, up to the strength directed by the department. At such times as men have been available they have been sent out to replace those whose tours of duty had expired, but at no time during the year were there as many men in the Philippines as should have been in accordance with the department's instructions and as are really necessary to properly perform the duty assigned them. At the present time the strength of the brigade is 38 officers and 1,020 enlisted men.

The sum of \$60,000 should be allowed for building barracks outside of San Felipe at Cavite, P. I. The men are now living in buildings which were hastily constructed in 1899. These buildings are shut off from proper ventilation and are unhealthy and insanitary, all of which could be remedied for the sum of \$60,000.

Reports received from the brigade since the date of the last annual report are, in all respects, of a satisfactory nature.

GUAM.

The marine command in Guam consists of 5 officers and 100 enlisted men, and from reports received at these headquarters it appears that the health of the command has been excellent during the past year.

PEKING, CHINA.

The legation guard at Peking is being maintained at the same strength and under the same conditions as in the past. Reports received show that the condition of affairs in this command is most satisfactory.

TARGET PRACTICE AND RANGES.

The need of additional target ranges for the target practice of the posts of the Marine Corps, referred to in previous annual reports, has not been remedied to any appreciable extent, although the marine corps rifle range at Winthrop, Md., has been established during the past year. This range has been used since about May 15 last for the practice of the officers and enlisted men from the barracks at Philadelphia, Pa.; Annapolis, Md.; the garrisons at the two posts of the corps in Washington, D. C.; Norfolk, Va.; and Charleston, S. C. Camps of instruction were established at Wakefield, Mass., and, through courtesy of the army, at Fort Barry, Cal. The former camp accommodated officers and enlisted men from the barracks at Newport, R. I.; New York, N. Y.; Portsmouth, N. H.; and Boston, Mass.; also from the naval prisons at the two last-mentioned posts, from the U. S. S. *Wabash*, U. S. S. *Southery*, and such ships of the United States Atlantic Fleet as could send men of the marine detachments to that camp for practice. The range at Fort Barry affords practice for the garrisons at Mare Island, Cal., and the naval training station, San Francisco, Cal. The work accomplished at these camps will be referred to later in this report. While the results obtained have fully justified the expenditure for rentals and transportation, this plan is but a makeshift, and the acquiring of ranges for the exclusive use of the Marine Corps, especially in the vicinity of Mare Island, Cal., and New York, N. Y., or Boston, Mass., is strongly recommended. The sum of \$2,000 is available for the purpose of purchasing a site for a range, and steps are now being taken to secure same.

The following tables show the results of the work at the various camps of instruction during the year:

Winthrop, Md.

Expert riflemen-----	29
Sharpshooters-----	91
Marksmen-----	22
Unqualified-----	154
Number who fired-----	296

Wakefield, Mass.

Expert riflemen-----	38
Sharpshooters-----	103
Marksmen-----	53
Unqualified-----	393
Number who fired and failed to requalify or attain a higher grade-----	49
Number who fired-----	636

Fort Barry, Cal.

Expert riflemen.....	7
Sharpshooters.....	34
Marksmen.....	24
Unqualified.....	90
Number who fired.....	155

Fired preliminary course, 112.

The range at Mare Island, Cal., only allows of qualification in the marksman's course, and, in addition, is constantly in use by the receiving ship and other ships that may be at the yard. It is obvious, therefore, that the purchase of a range in the vicinity of Mare Island, also one on the North Atlantic coast, is an urgent necessity. The recommendation contained in the annual report of this office for 1909, to the effect that the Navy Department be conferred with, looking to the establishing of a joint range on the Pacific coast for the use of the officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps and Navy stationed on that coast, both ashore and afloat, is again made.

The following table shows the comparative results of target practice on the range for the years 1908, 1909, and 1910 (to date) :

	1908.	1909.	1910 (to date).
Expert riflemen.....	77	268	98
Sharpshooters.....	207	495	409
Marksmen.....	285	352	388
Total.....	569	1,115	855

The following table shows the approximate number of officers and enlisted men now graded as expert riflemen, sharpshooters, and marksmen; also the approximate number of enlisted men now drawing pay by reason of qualifications under the Small Arms Firing Regulations:

	Expert riflemen.	Sharp- shooters.	Marks- men.	Total.
Qualified in 1908.....	77	207	285	569
Qualified in 1909.....	268	495	352	1,115
Qualified in 1910 (to date).....	98	409	388	895
Officers and men now graded.....	443	1,111	1,025	2,579
Deducting officers.....	64	52	10	126
Qualifications from army.....	379	1,059	1,015	2,453
	7	11	4	22
Deducting men discharged who probably will not reenlist.....	386	1,070	1,019	2,475
	25	60	50	135
Approximate number of enlisted men who draw increased compensation for qualifications.....	361	1,010	969	2,340

The policy of distributing members of the marine corps rifle team among the various posts to act as instructors in rifle practice was continued during the past season, and resulted in a stimulation of interest in target practice. Every post in the United States will be furnished at the end of this season with capable instructors, and the

winter's work in the galleries will be made systematic throughout the corps. It is believed that good results will follow this procedure.

The evidencing of qualification by orders instead of by individual certificates, as formerly, has worked well, reducing largely the work in the office of the inspector of target practice and stimulating interest and pride in marksmanship by its publicity.

It is very gratifying for the undersigned to state that about 30 per cent of the enlisted men of the Marine Corps are drawing increased compensation on account of qualification at target practice.

RIFLE TEAM.

The marine corps rifle team was selected this year at the marine corps rifle range, Winthrop, Md., and the preliminary work was done at that range. Capt. William C. Harllee, U. S. Marine Corps, was the team captain. As a result of the training at Seagirt, N. J., in 1909, the selection of the team was not delayed this year, and the members had several months' practice together before leaving for Camp Perry, Ohio. The team left Winthrop on July 1 and returned to that place on July 26, after the completion of the matches at Camp Perry.

The Marine Corps entered individuals and teams in the following matches, with the results indicated:

Ohio State Rifle Association matches.

Hale match (individual), 5 and 7.
Peter's trophy (individual), 3.
Buckeye match (individual), 2, 4, and 6.
Du Pont individual tyro match, 2, 4, and 9.
Catrow cup match (individual), 5.
Governor's match (individual), 2, 3, 4, and 5.
Adjutant-general's match (individual), 6 and 9.
Herrick trophy (team):
Marine Corps team No. 2, 2.
Marine Corps team No. 1, 4.
National team match, 42.

National Rifle Association matches.

President's match, 1 and 3.
Wimbledon cup match, 8 and 10.
Leech cup match, 11.
Marine Corps cup, 2 and 4.
Individual rapid fire, 8.
Individual military rifle shooting championship of the United States, 1.

Attention is invited to the excellent work done by Sergt. William A. Fragner and Corpl. George W. Farnham, U. S. Marine Corps, the former of whom won the President's match with a total score of 283 out of a possible 300, and the latter taking third place with a total score of 281. Corporal Farnham's score in the national individual match was 266, which, with the score of 281 made by him in the President's match, a total of 547, entitled him to the individual military rifle shooting championship of the United States. Sergeant Fragner's score in these two matches was 544. Considering the large number of competitors in these matches, representing the military and naval services and nearly every State and Territory, and the keen rivalry manifested throughout the same, the showing of Sergeant

Fragner and Corporal Farnham was especially creditable, and is a source of gratification to every officer and enlisted man in the Marine Corps.

In the national team match the Marine Corps team finished No. 42, with a score of 2,104. Its skirmish run, 1,032, the highest of any of its competitors, except the team representing the State of Iowa, with which it was tied, was not allowed, one of the alternates of the team committing a breach of decorum on the range by shouting words of encouragement to a member of the team on the skirmish run. Had its skirmish score not been thrown out, the team would have taken second place, its score then being but 50 points below that of the infantry team, which took first place. The showing made by the team in the national team match was distinctly creditable, as, but for the regrettable circumstance above cited, the team would have attained a higher standing than ever before made by a Marine Corps team in this match.

The cavalry team appealed from the decision of the executive officer at Camp Perry in throwing out the skirmish score of the Marine Corps team, and it is understood that at a meeting of the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, held in Washington, D. C., on September 26, 1910, it was decided that the appeal of the cavalry team should be allowed and the Marine Corps team be awarded second place in the national team match. The generous action of the cavalry team, as evidenced by the appeal of First Lieut. William H. Clopton, jr., U. S. Army, the team captain, is highly appreciated by the undersigned and by every officer and enlisted man of the Marine Corps.

The marking and scoring detachment furnished by the Marine Corps for duty during the national matches this year received favorable notice, as was the case last year, and their military bearing, appearance, and manner of performing their duties reflected great credit on their organization.

RECRUITING.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1910, recruiting was not as successful as during the preceding year, in view of the fact that in that year there were enlisted 4,115 men, a monthly average of 343, whereas during the current fiscal year 3,599 men were enlisted, a monthly average of but 300. This decrease is believed to be due, in a great measure, to the same reason that prevailed during the preceding year, i. e., increased business activity throughout the country. There are at the present time 14 recruiting districts and 90 stations, and it is believed that this number will be sufficient to fill up the corps.

This office fully appreciates the fact that the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery is unable to furnish naval examining surgeons for the Marine Corps recruiting stations, and on this account a great deal of trouble has been experienced, owing to the fact that civilian medical examiners on duty at the various stations do not render satisfactory service, due in a great measure to their inexperience and the further fact that the substations are, of necessity, being constantly changed, involving the employment of new and inexperienced medical examiners, and while these headquarters believe that these examiners are doing the best they can under existing circumstances, the percentage

of recruits rejected on second examination at posts is so great as to materially retard the results which should be expected, having in view the number of recruiting stations now in operation.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INSPECTION DISTRICTS.

The office of the assistant adjutant and inspector, north Atlantic inspection district, United States Marine Corps, was established on January 24, 1910, at 1100 South Broad street, Philadelphia, Pa., and on the 31st idem the office of the assistant adjutant and inspector, south Atlantic inspection district, United States Marine Corps, was established in the Dickson Building, Norfolk, Va. On February 1, 1910, the designation of the office of the assistant adjutant and inspector, San Francisco, Cal., was changed to the assistant adjutant and inspector, Pacific inspection district, United States Marine Corps, and that of the brigade adjutant and inspector, Philippine Islands, to the assistant adjutant and inspector, Philippines inspection district, United States Marine Corps.

MOVEMENT OF DETACHMENTS.

During the year movements of detachments were made as the necessities of the service required and as was able to be done with the force at hand. It has not been possible, owing to the scarcity of men, to make such movements as is believed would add to the greatest efficiency of the service.

SALARIES OF CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.

The undersigned respectfully renews the recommendation made in the annual reports for the years 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, and 1909, respectively, and in various special communications (the last dated September 1, 1909), that the classified civilian employees of his office and of the several staff offices of the Marine Corps be placed on a footing more nearly equal, as regards pay, to that of like employees of other governmental offices and bureaus, particularly those of the Navy Department.

Attention is invited to the fact that, barring the increase of three of them from \$1,540.80 to \$1,600 in 1904, the salaries (\$1,600) of the chief clerks of the four offices at these headquarters are precisely the same as they were many years ago, when the amount of work and the responsibilities devolving upon said chief clerks were probably less

than one-quarter of what they are now with the greatly increased strength of the corps and the corresponding increase of business. The latter figure, it may be noted, is not the one now allowed chief clerks in nearly all cases, but is the salary which was fixed by Congress in 1853, not specifically for chief clerks, but for clerical employees of class 3. As early as 1863 six of the eight chief clerks in the department were allowed \$1,800, and in 1899 the salaries of all said chief clerks were increased to \$2,000 per annum. Many chief clerks in other departments receive salaries greatly in excess of those in effect at these headquarters, chief clerks receiving less than \$2,000 per annum being extremely rare. Many of them are allowed much more. In fact, hundreds of subordinate clerks employed elsewhere receive \$200 per annum more than the chief clerks at these headquarters.

The present incumbents of the four chief clerkships here have been in the service from eleven to twenty-one years.

GOOD-CONDUCT MEDALS.

During the past year 379 good-conduct medals and 146 good-conduct medal bars have been issued to enlisted men of the corps. Having in view the conditions under which these medals and bars are awarded, the above record shows a very satisfactory standard as to the men who reenlist in the corps.

CAMPAIGN BADGES.

Since the date of the last annual report from these headquarters the following campaign badges and bars have been issued in accordance with the provisions of Navy Department Special Order No. 82, dated June 27, 1909, to officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps, to commemorate services rendered in campaigns: Twenty-five civil war campaign badges and bars, 134 Spanish-American campaign badges and bars, 162 China campaign badges and bars, 297 Philippine campaign badges and bars.

NAVY MAIL CLERKS.

In previous annual reports of this office the attention of the department was invited to the fact that by the act approved May 27, 1908, enlisted men of the Marine Corps were debarred from being

selected and designated as "navy mail clerks" and "assistant navy mail clerks." It is not believed that it was the intention of the framers of the law to deprive enlisted men of the Marine Corps of these appointments, especially in view of the fact that for many years prior to the passage of this act the mail on board ships of the navy has been handled by enlisted men of the corps without increased compensation. It therefore does not seem proper that now, since there is a pecuniary benefit attached thereto, the enlisted men of the corps should be deprived of such benefits. It is again, therefore, earnestly recommended that the legislation above referred to be amended so as to make it applicable to enlisted men of the Marine Corps.

INSTRUCTION OF COOKS.

The ration is continually being improved, both as to the component parts and the quality thereof. It is a well-known fact, however, that the best of food, if improperly handled, will produce worse results than poor food well handled. In other words, it is becoming more and more necessary, with the changed condition of affairs, that there should be systematic instruction of cooks for the corps, and the undersigned therefore again renews the recommendation made in previous reports that the necessary legislation be secured to establish a school of instruction for cooks, with a view to the more economical and better preparation of the ration.

FINGER-PRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.

There are now in the files of the finger-print identification system of the corps, which was adopted July 1, 1907, about 18,000 records. Of these, 14,000, approximately, are records of recruits, the balance being those of men in service at the date when the system was adopted. Two hundred and thirty-three detections as to fraudulent enlistment have been made by this system, this being about 1 detection to each 60 recruits enlisted, and shows the advantage of the system. The undersigned feels, however, that so long as the different branches of the service work independently the best results will not follow, for it is only by the merest accident that the work of one office benefits any other office. A central clearing house will make every finger print taken available for the purpose of detecting fraudulent enlistments in all the services. The scheme of such a central clearing house is feasible, and this matter, which was previously commented upon, is again brought to the department's attention, with the recommendation that steps be taken to provide for such a central clearing house for finger-print cards.

TRANSPORTS FOR THE MARINE CORPS.

The undersigned reiterates the recommendation made by him in former annual reports that a ship of the *Dixie* or *Panther* type be converted into a transport for the sole and exclusive use of the Marine Corps, said ship to be commanded and manned by officers and enlisted men of the navy, but for use solely as a transport for the corps and for advanced base work. In the event that vessels of the

above-mentioned type are not available it is suggested that either the U. S. S. *Columbia* or *Minneapolis* would be suitable for the purpose indicated. The reasons which were previously urged are as potent now as then and seem to the undersigned to be sufficient to warrant the renewal of this, his recommendation, in the premises.

COMMENDATORY LETTERS AND LIFE-SAVING MEDALS.

The undersigned is gratified to report that during the past year commendatory letters have been sent to members of the Marine Corps for special services rendered, and that there have been filed at these headquarters letters of commendation bearing on the corps as a whole.

Silver life-saving medals were awarded by the Treasury Department to Privates William E. Lester and Peter Foy, U. S. Marine Corps, for courage and presence of mind displayed by them in rescuing certain persons from drowning in the navigable waters of the United States during the past year.

DEPOSITS.

The benefits of the present system of savings deposits have continued to be availed of throughout the fiscal year, and in general the spirit of thrift among the enlisted men has constantly increased.

EXAMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR PROMOTION.

The recommendation contained in previous annual reports of this office to the effect that the law pertaining to the examination of officers of the Marine Corps for promotion be amended so that the moral examination shall precede the physical examination is, for the reasons previously urged, again renewed.

CEREMONIES.

During the past year the corps has, as in the past, been requested frequently to participate in public ceremonies of every character, and wherever it has been practicable said requests have been complied with. In many cases invitations had to be declined owing to the impossibility of securing the necessary officers and men to participate.

ARMY COURTESIES.

The undersigned is again pleased to place upon record the courtesies extended to the corps by the officers of the War Department, which have been continued during the past year.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.

The appointments and promotions in both the line and staff of the corps which were made during the past year are fully recorded in the files of the department, and no further reference thereto is deemed necessary.

ENLISTED FORCE.

The enlistments and reenlistments in the Marine Corps during the past year have been as follows:

Enlistments	3, 939
Reenlistments:	
From Marine Corps	817
From United States Army	122
Joined from desertion	159
	<hr/> 1, 098
Total	5, 037
Discharged, deserted, retired, and died	4, 970
	<hr/>
Net gain	67

DISTRIBUTION OF FORCE.

The following is the general distribution of the officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps at the present time:

	Officers.	Enlisted men.
On shore duty within the territorial limits of the United States	197
On shore duty outside the territorial limits of the United States	82	2, 357
On board ships in commission	55	2, 440
Total	334

Number of officers allowed by law	334
Number of enlisted men allowed by law	9, 521
In service September 27, 1910:	
Officers	334
Enlisted men	9, 267

RETIREMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, DEATHS, ETC.

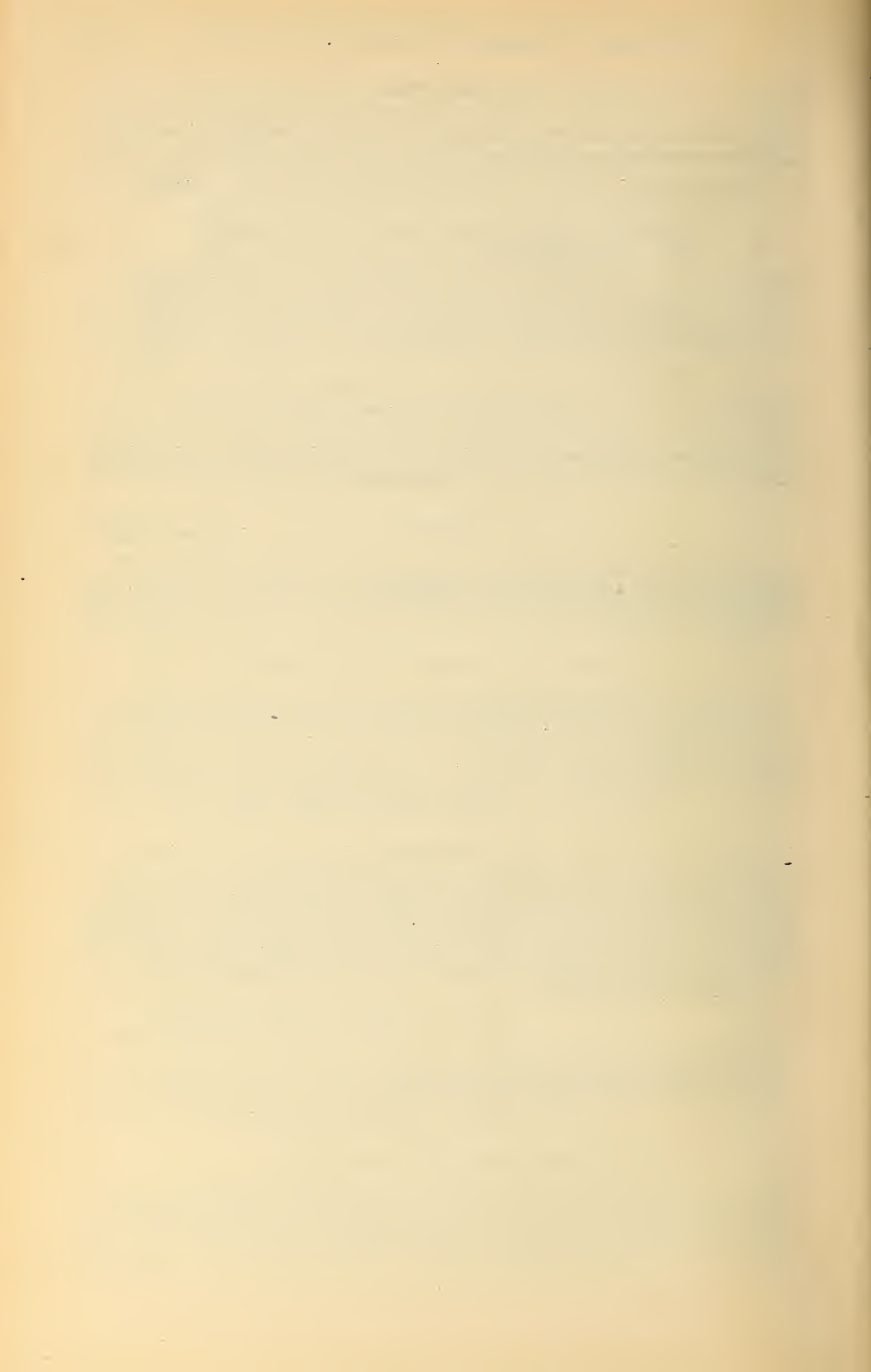
During the past year there were four retirements, one resignation, and two deaths among the officers of the Marine Corps.

In conclusion, the undersigned desires to state that the recommendations herein made, both as to the personnel and the matériel, have been very carefully considered; and he trusts that they will receive favorable consideration on the part of the department.

Very respectfully,

G. F. ELLIOTT,
Major-General, Commandant.

The SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.



NAVY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
OF THE UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS

TO THE
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
Washington, D. C., September 30, 1911.

SIR: In compliance with the department's instructions of June 19, 1911, I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition and service of the United States Marine Corps for the last fiscal year, and, in connection therewith, to transmit the annual estimates for its support during the coming fiscal year.

During the period covered by this report inspections of the marine barracks at the navy yards and stations, both in the United States and in the insular possessions thereof, have been made, as far as practicable, either by the undersigned or by officers of the adjutant and inspector's department. Such of the barracks as have not been inspected during the past year will be inspected in the near future. Favorable reports as to the personnel, so far as pertains to health and discipline, have generally been made of those posts which have been visited by the inspecting officers. Adverse criticism has been made of some of the barracks, due to their being obsolete both as to construction and capacity, but there is no way of obviating this unless Congress appropriates for new and necessary barracks.

PERSONNEL.

At all the stations of the Marine Corps in the United States the amount of guard duty which the officers and men of the corps are called upon to perform is such as not to allow sufficient time off duty to permit of their proper instruction in the many and various details of their profession. This office intends to recommend in the near future that the department direct "that except in emergencies privates will not be detailed for guard duty oftener than once in three days." This is believed the maximum amount of guard duty that should be required. It also intends to recommend that the department direct commandants of navy yards and stations to appoint boards to make a study of the yards and stations to which attached, so that the proper performance of guard duty may be carried on with the least number of sentries.

ESTABLISHMENT OF RECRUIT DEPOTS.

Recruit depots are being established at Philadelphia (two companies), Port Royal (three companies), Mare Island (one company), and Puget Sound (one company), to which men enlisted in adjacent territory will hereafter be sent for careful, systematic instruction for a period of about three months prior to their assignment to regular duty. It is not believed that as good results can be obtained with

the small one-company recruit depots as at larger depots, and as soon as sufficient data can be obtained on which to base an accurate decision it is the intention to combine the two recruit depots on the Pacific coast into one.

Officers specially qualified for the instruction of recruits have been assigned to duty at these depots, and have themselves been given particular instructions as to handling recruits. Prior to the establishment of these depots recruits were habitually sent to the barracks nearest to their respective places of enlistment, and it often developed that because of shortage of men at a given navy yard it was necessary to detail recruits for regular duty before they were properly qualified therefor. It is believed that the system just inaugurated will result in a much more satisfactory performance of duty by men in the early stage of their enlistments, and, by affording them an opportunity to acquire necessary information as to their duties and to become accustomed to service routine, will considerably decrease the number of desertions, thus adding materially to the efficiency of the service and eliminating a great part of the expense incident to enlisting, outfitting, and rationing recruits who, soon after their entrance into the service, might otherwise desert.

When this recruiting system has been in operation for three months it is estimated that there will be approximately 900 men in training at the recruit depots, and these men will not be available for the necessary ordinary garrison duties.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

Two officers and six noncommissioned officers have taken a course in physical training at the Naval Academy, under the supervision of Surg. Joseph A. Murphy, United States Navy, who, at the request of these headquarters, and by authority of the Surgeon General of the Navy, has formulated a course in physical training for recruits of the Marine Corps. Upon the completion of this course of instruction, one officer and two noncommissioned officers were sent to the recruit depots at Philadelphia and Port Royal, and one noncommissioned officer to each of the smaller depots at Mare Island and Puget Sound.

COMPANY ORGANIZATION.

In order that the training of men may be better carried out, that the men may be more carefully looked after, and may be better prepared for expeditionary service, the larger posts of the corps have been divided into two parts—one known as the barracks detachment and composed of men whose duties are such that they are not ordinarily available for expeditionary or sea service, men joining for discharge, sick, etc.; the other part being formed into companies of 2 officers and 100 enlisted men each, the number of companies depending upon the size of the post. This organization of permanent companies will, it is believed, add considerably to the efficiency of the service by insuring the systematic instruction of officers, noncommissioned officers, and men in all the details of organization that must necessarily be adopted in the field, and will obviate much of the confusion incident to the formation of companies when the corps is called upon to furnish detachments for expeditionary service.

INCREASE IN CORPS.

The Marine Corps is so intimately associated with the Navy that it is believed that the best results will follow from a settled policy in regard to increasing the corps, and it is recommended that whenever there is an increase in the enlisted personnel of the Navy that an increase of the enlisted personnel of the Marine Corps equal to at least 20 per cent. of the Navy increase should be made, and, as efficiency in expeditionary service requires the organization of companies, battalions, and regiments, it is believed that with each increase of enlisted men there should be authorized an increase in the number of officers corresponding to the enlisted increase.

TRAINING FOR SEA SERVICE.

The plan of having detachments for duty on board ship assemble, under their officers, for two or three months' training prior to going on board ship was inaugurated at Port Royal, where the detachments for the *Florida* and *Utah* were trained.

It is intended to use the marine barracks, Naval Academy, Annapolis, as a training place for two ships' detachments, and, so far as practicable, to fill occasional vacancies in ships' detachments from that post. Three officers due for sea service have been ordered there; one company has been organized, and as soon as men and ordnance and other matériel are available a second company will be formed.

MATÉRIEL.

During the past year the money appropriated by Congress for the maintenance of the Marine Corps has been judiciously expended. The appropriation "Repair of barracks" has been utilized in making such minor repairs and alterations as were necessary to keep the barracks in proper condition for habitation. A great drain has been made on this appropriation because of the condition and requirements of many of the older barracks.

The report of the officer in charge of the quartermaster's department of the corps shows that minor repairs and improvements have been made during the past year at all the stations.

ADVANCED BASE SCHOOL.

In June the Advanced Base School, formerly at New London, was moved to Philadelphia. The officers attached to the school are thus rendered available for duty with the battalion at the latter post, and in place of a course made up largely of theoretical instruction, both officers and men can have a large amount of practical instruction and work with the matériel that would be used in case of hostilities.

The department has been requested to assemble at this station all the advanced base matériel at the naval stations on the Atlantic coast so that the matériel may be overhauled and the useless or obsolete eliminated. The storage facilities for this matériel are limited, and as soon as practicable additional space should be allotted.

In order that the work at this school may be carried on successfully it will be necessary that the officers be relieved, as far as is practicable, from courts and boards incident to naval administration.

MARINE CORPS RIFLE RANGE, WINTHROP, MD.

At this post a dormitory for enlisted men was erected, a toilet and bathroom has been provided, the surface drainage improved, grounds graded, two range houses for the protection of markers constructed, mess hall completed, earthen mounds for target butts constructed, and various other minor improvements made, and it is gradually becoming a model rifle range.

NORFOLK, VA.

On May 30, 1911, under an appropriation provided in the naval appropriation act approved June 24, 1910, a contract was executed for the construction of one double set of junior officers' quarters for two married officers and one house for bachelor quarters for eight officers at this post, at a total cost of \$42,902.50, the buildings to be completed on or before April 14, 1912.

CHARLESTON, S. C.

The new barracks building recently constructed under contract was accepted on November 9, 1910, but plumbing and lighting fixtures are necessary; also kitchen equipment. The new officer's quarters were completed and accepted on August 11, 1910, and two small frame buildings have been moved from old sites and fitted up as additional quarters for officers, making four houses in all.

Owing to the necessity of moving the recruit depot from the Marine Officers' School, Port Royal, S. C., one company of recruits was transferred to this post. In view of the lack of plumbing facilities in the new barracks it is necessary to quarter this company in tents.

MARINE OFFICERS' SCHOOL.

The course of instruction at this school has been very thorough, and the results achieved have been extremely satisfactory and gratifying.

On December 17, 1910, 16 of the recently appointed second lieutenants of the corps were graduated from this school, and another class of 5, which is now undergoing instruction, will be graduated in December, 1911. The 6 newly commissioned second lieutenants started the course of instruction on August 1, 1911.

Late in November 1910, a systematic method of handling and training recruits was started at this post, with most satisfactory results. Owing to the demand for men by the organization of a brigade for expeditionary service, this recruit depot had to be abandoned until June 1, 1911, when recruits were again sent to the post.

Owing to this station being designated as the United States Naval Disciplinary Barracks it was necessary to transfer the Marine Officers' School to Norfolk, Va.; at the same time the headquarters of the recruit depot, with two companies of recruits—in all about 250 men—were transferred to the Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va., and one company, about 100 men, to the Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Charleston, S. C. At neither of these two posts are there sufficient accommodations for the number of men that have

to be stationed there. There are no quarters for the student officers nor for the instructing officers; the former are living in tents in a camp which has been erected on the parade ground, and the latter are living outside of the station. As it will be necessary eventually to handle between three and four hundred recruits at this station it is intended to erect two temporary barracks sufficient in size to accommodate about 260 men with the necessary messing facilities, and a gymnasium and drill hall combined.

PUGET SOUND, WASH.

The new officers' quarters provided for in the act of March 3, 1909, were completed and accepted on July 18, 1911, under contract executed November 5, 1910. The quarters consist of one commanding officer's and three junior officers', and the contract price for the entire work is \$51,250.

In the same act provision was made for a new barracks building and contract was executed for the construction of such a building on May 29, 1911, at the contract price of \$135,428. Under the terms of this contract this building should be completed on October 14, 1912.

PANAMA.

The marine battalion stationed on the Isthmus of Panama consists of 14 officers and 415 enlisted men. Reports received show that the health of the command has been excellent during the past year.

Attention is invited to the fact that the site occupied by the marine camp at Bas Obispo will soon become an island, as on completion of the Gatun Dam the adjacent territory will be flooded and become unfit for use as a camp site.

It is the opinion of this office that a body of troops subject to the control of the Navy Department, which can be utilized either in detachments or up to the limit of the command stationed there, and which can be dispatched with the greatest celerity and without undue attention being brought to the move, would be of the greatest value both to the State and Navy Departments. It is therefore suggested that the necessary steps be taken to secure the allotment of a site within the limits of the Canal Zone for the use of the advanced base and expeditionary forces of the Marine Corps.

HONOLULU, HAWAII.

At present the marine command at Honolulu consists of 6 officers and 183 enlisted men. This force will be considerably augmented when the new barracks are completed.

On August 25, 1910, bids were opened for the construction of barracks and officers' quarters at this station, for which Congress, in the naval appropriation act approved March 3, 1909, appropriated the following sums: \$135,000 for barracks and \$50,000 for officers' quarters. All of the bids received were considerably in excess of the amount appropriated, and the plans and specifications were modified and new bids requested; these bids will be opened on December 4, 1911.

GUAM.

The marine command at Guam consists of 3 officers and 100 enlisted men, and from reports on file at these headquarters it appears that the health of the command has been excellent during the past year. The barracks accommodations are not sufficient for the number of men at the post.

PHILIPPINES.

During the past year the marine brigade in the Philippines has been maintained, as far as practicable, at a strength of 1,200 enlisted men. On June 30, 1911, the strength of the brigade was 39 officers and 1,129 enlisted men.

Improvements have been made at the posts in Cavite and Olongapo, so far as money available for the purpose permitted, but the accommodations, both for officers and enlisted men, are far short of what they should be in order to insure the health and comfort of the commands.

PEKING, CHINA.

The legion guard at Peking is being maintained at the same strength and under the same conditions as in the past. Reports received show that the condition of affairs in this command is most satisfactory.

TARGET PRACTICE AND RANGES.

In view of the fact that the Marine Corps maintained a large expeditionary force in Cuba during the early part of the present year, the regular season's work in target practice was somewhat delayed. Nevertheless the number of qualifications during the present year will compare favorably with those of any similar period in past years, this being mainly due to the experience and ability of the officers in charge of the two largest ranges used by the corps in the United States—that at Winthrop, Md., and the range of the Bay State Military Rifle Association at Wakefield, Mass., which latter is leased by the Marine Corps until October 15, 1911. The presence at these ranges of a large number of enlisted men, who by reason of previous training and of their ability as instructors, were selected for duty as coaches, also contributed to the expeditious handling of detachments sent to the range for practice.

Following are the qualifications for the year:

Qualification.	Officers.	Enlisted men.
Expert riflemen	14	157
Sharpshooters.....	6	756
Marksmen.....	2	325

Following is the approximate number of men who are drawing increased compensation by reason of qualification:

Expert riflemen.....	455
Sharpshooters.....	1,715
Marksmen.....	1,000

RANGES.

The rifle range of the Bay State Military Rifle Association at Wakefield, Mass., was again leased by the Marine Corps for the practice of the commands at the barracks at New York, Boston, and Portsmouth, N. H., the prisons at the two last mentioned places, and of the marine detachments on board the receiving ships *Wabash*, *Southery*, and *Hancock*, and the vessels of the United States Atlantic Fleet within convenient distance of the range.

Owing to extended repair work on the Army rifle range at Fort Barry, Cal., and the further fact that the Army troops in the Western Division will use this range until about December, the ships in the vicinity of San Francisco, Cal., will not have an opportunity to fire this season unless the target season for 1911 is extended.

COMPETITIONS.

The interpost, division, and Marine Corps competitions, authorized by Navy Department orders, were carried out on a more extensive scale than ever before in the corps, and have stimulated interest in rifle practice generally throughout the corps. Twelve teams participated in the interpost competition at Winthrop, Md., the highest aggregate score being made by the team from Annapolis, Md., which was awarded the Elliott trophy. The division competitions held at the same range September 14, and the Marine Corps competition held September 15, developed some splendid shooting.

On April 17, 1911, at Tientsin, China, in an open match for the championship of North China, in which there were 83 entries, civilians, members of the Tientsin Rifle Club, and members of foreign military stationed in Tientsin and Peking, Private Alton F. Shaffer won first place, Capt. Thomas Holcomb, jr., second, and Private Charles M. Whitaker, third. Private Shaffer won the North China championship and the trophy.

On July 27, 1911, the team from the Marine Corps rifle range, Winthrop, Md., under command of Capt. Harry R. Lay, was entered in the matches of the District of Columbia National Guard and won the Mosher match (200 and 600 yards slow and 200 yards rapid fire) and took third place in the Berry & Whitmore team skirmish match.

MARINE CORPS RIFLE TEAM.

The team was assembled at Wakefield, Mass., candidates having been transferred there in the latter part of June, 1911. Capt. Douglas C. McDougal, team captain, conducted the selection of the team and training of same.

The most important events won by the Marine Corps team and members of the squad were the national team match and the President's match, which latter was won by Corp. Calvin A. Lloyd, United States Marine Corps.

This is the first year that a Marine Corps team took first place in the national team match—the most important military rifle match in the country—and when it is considered that the team was composed of practically new men (10 men having been eliminated from last year's team under the national match rules) the result is all the more gratifying.

The detachment of 100 enlisted men under command of Capt. Harry R. Lay, United States Marine Corps, who acted as markers and scorers during the matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, performed its duties in a very satisfactory manner, and received favorable comment from all officials and visitors at the matches. The discipline and conduct of this detachment were above reproach, and brought favorable notice to the Marine Corps at Camp Perry and vicinity.

The showing of the rifle team this year, the extra compensation which qualification under the Small Arms Firing Regulations carries, and the award of cash prizes for the individual, post, and interpost competitions have combined to stimulate the greatest interest in rifle practice, and will result in increasing proficiency in marksmanship in the Marine Corps.

EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

A provisional brigade was formed at Philadelphia, Pa., under command of Col. L. W. T. Waller, United States Marine Corps, for special temporary foreign shore service, Guantanamo, Cuba, the first regiment of which embarked on the U. S. S. *Prairie* March 8, 1911, consisting of 31 officers and 731 enlisted men under the command of Col. George Barnett, United States Marine Corps. The second regiment, consisting of 31 officers and 685 enlisted men, under the command of Col. Franklin J. Moses, United States Marine Corps, embarked on the U. S. S. *Dirie* March 9, 1911, at Philadelphia, Pa., and March 11, 1911, at Norfolk, Va., 140 enlisted men embarking at Philadelphia, and the remainder at Norfolk.

On March 13, 1911, 22 officers and 666 enlisted men, under the command of Maj. George C. Thorpe, United States Marine Corps, fleet marine officer, were landed at Guantanamo, Cuba, from the following named vessels of the United States Atlantic Fleet: *Connecticut, Michigan, North Dakota, Minnesota, Idaho, Mississippi, Vermont, Georgia, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Virginia*, and were organized as the Third Regiment, Lieut. Col. Ben H. Fuller, United States Marine Corps, being assigned the command.

The detachments of the above-named vessels, together with the first and second regiments of the provisional brigade, were returned to their proper stations in June of the current year.

It is believed that better results would be obtained for the service at large if the strength of the Marine Corps permitted of all expeditionary forces being taken from shore stations, using the marines of the fleet as a landing force only on those occasions where immediate action is necessary, and in conjunction with the fleet itself.

A regiment consisting of 12 officers and 503 enlisted men, under command of Col. Charles A. Doyen, United States Marine Corps, embarked on the U. S. S. *Buffalo* March 11, 1911, for expeditionary service on the Pacific coast. This regiment was distributed as follows among vessels of the United States Pacific Fleet:

Armored cruisers.	Officers.	Men.
Pennsylvania.....	5	103
California.....	2	100
South Dakota.....	2	100
West Virginia.....	2	100
Maryland.....	1	100

This regiment disembarked from ships, for encampment ashore, at San Diego, Cal., March 20, 1911, returning to their proper stations during June and July, 1911.

Owing to the limited number of men available on the Pacific coast when this regiment was formed, approximately one-half its enlisted personnel had had less than three months' service. In the opinion of this office, it is inadvisable to send men on expeditionary service who have not had at least three months' service, and, so far as practicable hereafter, only men who have passed through the recruit depots will be assigned to this duty.

INSPECTION DISTRICTS.

The office of the assistant adjutant and inspector, South Atlantic inspection district, at Norfolk, Va., was closed on June 1, 1911, and that of the assistant adjutant and inspector, North Atlantic inspection district, at Philadelphia, Pa., was closed on June 10, 1911.

WITHDRAWAL OF MARINE GARRISONS.

In accordance with the orders of the department, the marine garrisons at the naval training station, San Francisco, Cal., and Newport, R. I., and at the naval stations, Culebra, P. R., and San Juan, P. R., were withdrawn in July, 1911, and at the navy yard, Pensacola, Fla., and the naval station, New Orleans, La., in September, 1911. This, together with the transfer of the Advanced Base School to Philadelphia, increases the number of men available elsewhere and relieves the Marine Corps from the expense of maintaining these small posts.

NEW SPRINGFIELD RIFLES.

The sum of \$200,000 was appropriated by Congress in the last and current years' naval appropriation acts, for the procurement from the Army of a sufficient number of the new Springfield rifles to fully equip the Marine Corps. These rifles have been secured and steps are being taken to distribute them amongst the various garrisons of the corps.

RATIONS.

A new system of providing rations has been instituted at all posts of the Marine Corps, which for convenience has been designated the "Component system." Under this system dealers are requested to quote unit prices on the various components which constitute the ration. Awards are made by items and supplies are contracted for by items. In this way dealers in specialties can bid and supply the articles in their particular line, which was not possible under the old system.

The inauguration of the component system has resulted in stimulating competition with a further result of a very material saving to the Government. It is estimated that a saving of approximately \$50,000 will be effected during the current year by this method of procuring the ration.

COOKS AND BAKERS.

Authority has been obtained for a limited number of enlisted men of the Marine Corps to take the course at the Army schools for cooks and bakers; eventually it is hoped to have trained cooks at all the barracks and available for duty with companies on expeditionary service.

INSTRUCTION OF OFFICERS AT ARMY SCHOOLS.

Two field officers of the Marine Corps took the course of instruction for field officers at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., during the month of March, 1911. These two officers have been detailed to take the course at the Army War College, Washington, D. C., for the school year beginning September 1, 1911. Two captains are taking the course of instruction at the Army School of the Line at Fort Leavenworth, Kans.

RECRUITING.

There are now 12 recruiting districts and 99 stations. The following comparative statement shows the progress of recruiting during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1911:

	Number enlisted.	Monthly average enlistments.	Number short of au- thorized com- plement, end of fiscal year.
Fiscal year ended:			
June 30, 1910.....	3,599	300	400
June 30, 1911.....	4,123	343	120
Gain in number enlisted.....	524		
Gain in strength.....			280

Cost of recruiting per man enlisted, including transportation..... \$57.998
 Cost of recruiting per man enlisted, excluding transportation..... 38.88

At the present time the Marine Corps is short of its authorized complement by only 61 men. The endeavor has always been to emphasize quality, rather than quantity, in the matter of enlistments, and, with the corps almost recruited to the authorized strength, the standard will be raised still further.

During the year acting assistant surgeons, United States Navy, were detailed for duty at all but three of the headquarters stations of recruiting districts. As a consequence, a reduction in the number of applicants rejected at posts is expected.

It is expected that during the current fiscal year, greater economy and efficiency will result from the adoption of a new system of recruiting. Under this system applicants are not enlisted at recruiting stations, but are examined physically, mentally, and morally. If deemed desirable they are then forwarded to recruiting depots for reexamination, and enlistment if found qualified. This system has been adopted in the United States Army with marked success. Under date of August 8, 1911, the Comptroller of the Treasury decided that it was legally applicable to the Marine Corps, and its adoption was approved by the Acting Secretary of the Navy on September 6, 1911.

It is anticipated that the following advantages will accrue from this system:

(a) The desirability of the applicant from a mental and moral standpoint will be passed upon by an officer of experience, thus tending to raise the standard of men accepted.

(b) It will allow the medical examination of an applicant by a naval medical officer of experience prior to the completion of the enlistment, and will reduce to a minimum the number of men necessarily discharged by medical survey.

(c) It will result in the saving to the Government of the value of the clothing actually issued to a recruit, or of his clothing allowance if not issued; his pay and rations while awaiting discharge, and the difference between the prescribed travel pay of an enlisted man and the cost of Government transportation of an applicant from the place of rejection to the place of application. There have been about 600 men discharged annually from the Marine Corps by medical survey for physical disability not in the line of duty, and the saving to the Government on these men will range from \$30,000 to \$60,000 annually, depending upon the length of time they were retained in the service.

(d) Prevention of many fraudulent enlistments through the detection of "repeaters" by the finger-print system prior to their actual enlistment.

After enlistment, recruits are retained at a recruit depot for a course of instruction in their duties, in order that they may be thoroughly grounded when transferred to stations for regular duty.

Effort is also being made to ascertain and eliminate the causes of desertion and when it may be attributed to inaccurate or incomplete information furnished at recruiting stations, a thorough investigation is made.

Whenever practicable, officers and enlisted men detailed for recruiting duty are being sent to the headquarters station of a large recruiting district for preliminary training prior to their regular assignment to a recruiting district.

A comprehensive set of instructions embodying all existing orders on the subject, is now being prepared and will be issued in the near future to the recruiting service for its information and guidance.

GOOD-CONDUCT MEDALS.

During the past year 703 good-conduct medals and 92 good-conduct medal bars have been issued to enlisted men of the Marine Corps.

CAMPAIGN BADGES.

Since the date of the last annual report the following campaign badges and bars have been issued to officers and enlisted men of the corps: Nine Civil War campaign badges and bars, 45 China campaign badges and bars, 33 Spanish campaign badges and bars, 149 Philippine campaign badges and bars, and 1,182 Army of Cuban Pacifica-tion badges.

The Italian Red Cross Society conferred medals, with diplomas, upon 2 officers and 52 enlisted men, composing the marine detachment of the U. S. S. *Illinois*, for services rendered in connection with the earthquake at Messina, Italy, December 28, 1908.

DEPOSITS.

The benefits of the present system of savings deposits have continued to be availed of throughout the fiscal year, and the spirit of thrift among the enlisted men of the corps has constantly increased.

ENLISTED FORCE.

Gains and losses in the enlisted force during the past year have been as follows:

Enlisted.....	3,294
Reenlisted:	
From Marine Corps.....	532
From Army.....	297
Joined from desertion.....	109
Prisoners restored.....	9
Total gain.....	4,241
Discharged.....	2,260
Died.....	38
Deserted.....	1,334
Retired.....	19
Prisoners sentenced to dishonorable discharge.....	214
Total loss.....	3,865
Net gain.....	376
Total in service June 30, 1910.....	9,078
Gain during fiscal year.....	376
In service June 30, 1911.....	9,454

DISTRIBUTION OF ENLISTED FORCE.

Summary of distribution of officers and enlisted men June 30, 1911:

	Officers.	Enlisted men.
On shore duty:		
In the United States.....	193	4,702
Outside United States.....	78	2,174
On board ships:		
Receiving ships.....	5	600
Cruising ships.....	54	1,978
Total in service June 30, 1911.....	330	9,454
Allowed by law.....	333	9,521

In addition to the above there were 184 general court-martial prisoners sentenced to dishonorable discharge.

RETIREMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, DEATHS, ETC.

During the past year there were 11 retirements, 4 resignations, 1 death, and 1 dismissal among the officers of the Marine Corps on the active list, and 1 death on the retired list.

W. P. BIDDLE,
Major General Commandant.

The SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

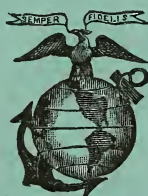
NAVY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
OF THE UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR 1912



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
Washington, October 17, 1912.

From Major General Commandant.

To Secretary of the Navy (Division of Personnel).

Subject: Annual report of the condition and service of the United States Marine Corps for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1912.

In compliance with the department's instructions, I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition and service of the United States Marine Corps for the last fiscal year.

During the period covered by this report, inspections of the marine barracks at the navy yards and stations, both in the United States and in the insular possessions thereof, have been made, as far as practicable, either by the undersigned or by officers of the adjutant and inspector's department. Favorable reports as to the personnel, so far as pertains to health and discipline, have generally been made of those posts which have been visited by the inspecting officers. As stated in former reports, adverse criticism has been made of some of the barracks, due to their being obsolete both as to construction and capacity, and to lack of proper accessories; but there is no way of obviating this unless the Congress appropriates for new and necessary barracks and other buildings.

PERSONNEL.

While it is not considered that the full effect will be felt inside of three years, the adoption of a system of recruiting whereby applicants are not enlisted without a thorough reexamination at recruit depots, the establishment of recruit depots, and the organization of companies at the larger yards, have resulted in a decided improvement in the enlisted personnel of the Marine Corps; this is shown by the large reduction during the past year in desertions and in discharges by medical survey.

The present system, whereby the whole Marine Corps on home service is scattered in numerous navy yards, is neither economical nor conducive to proper training, and it is urgently recommended that the department adopt the policy of having at least one large post on each coast, eventually to be capable of housing a brigade of two regiments at war strength, with its necessary field equipment.

In this connection it is desired to invite the department's attention to the fact that the duties the Marine Corps is called upon to perform are such that it is a necessity, if the best results are to be obtained, that it be at all times upon what is practically a war footing, and that rapidity of mobilization and efficiency in training can be best obtained by the large posts suggested.

The proportion of officers to men in the Marine Corps is entirely too low, and on the expeditions during the past year, though every officer available was taken, the organizations were underofficered.

The present proportion is 1 officer (line and staff combined) to 34½ enlisted men; this is about the proper proportion for company officers of the line, but when the necessary number of staff officers and field officers of the line, officers on detached duty, sick, en route to and from foreign service, etc., are considered, the proportion is too small by at least one-third, and it is believed that the proper proportion is 45 officers to 1,000 men—that is, approximately 1 officer to 22.2 men. A properly organized regiment has 1 officer to 25 men, and as regiments are organized, with the present proportion, the situation grows worse and worse. In the second regiment sent to Cuba this year, and in the regiment sent for service in Santo Domingo, it became necessary to make the companies of approximately 127 men each and to strip many of the posts of all except 1 line officer. It is also brought to the attention of the department that the organization of expeditionary brigades has become quite frequent, and that the rank proper to the command of brigades is brigadier general, of which rank there are at present no officers in the Marine Corps.

In order that the corps may be able to meet the demands made upon it without depleting the garrisons at yards and prisons in the United States, that the work of the Advanced Base School may not be interrupted, that its system of recruit training may be carried out, and that the lack of officers may be relieved, it is recommended that the necessary representation be made to the Congress for an increase during the coming year of 49 officers and 800 enlisted men. This increase in officers, if allowed, would give 1 officer to 27.2 men, or 36¾ officers per 1,000 men, which is considerably below the number required.

Examinations are being held to fill the vacancies created in the commissioned personnel by the naval appropriation act which was approved August 22, 1912, and as soon as commissioned these officers will be assigned to the Marine Officers' School for instruction.

It is expected that the 400 additional men provided by the above act will be enlisted and the corps recruited to its authorized strength by February 1, 1913. All of this increase has been absorbed by the adoption of the policy of placing marine detachments on the smaller ships, by the commissioning of the *Wyoming*, and the establishment of disciplinary barracks at the navy yard, Puget Sound, Wash.

ENLISTED FORCE.

Gains and losses in the enlisted force during the year have been as follows:

Enlisted	4, 310
Deserters rejoined	22
Prisoners restored	11
Total gain	4, 343
Discharged	2, 940
Died	29
Deserted	917
Retired	12
Prisoners sentenced to dishonorable discharge	173
Total loss	4, 071
Net gain	272

DISTRIBUTION OF FORCE.

Summary of distribution of officers and enlisted men June 30, 1912:

	Officers.	Enlisted men.
On shore duty:		
Inside United States.....	116	3,470
Outside United States.....	77	1,974
On expeditionary service.....	69	2,008
On board ship:		
On receiving ships.....	3	407
Cruising vessels.....	54	1,708

In addition to the above, there were 172 general court-martial prisoners sentenced to dishonorable discharge.

RETIREMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, DEATHS, ETC.

During the past year there were three retirements, three resignations, and two dismissals among the officers of the Marine Corps on the active list, and one death on the retired list.

GOOD-CONDUCT MEDALS.

During the past year 940 good-conduct medals and 183 good-conduct medal bars have been issued to men of the Marine Corps.

DEPOSITS.

The benefits of the present system of savings deposits have continued to be availed of throughout the last fiscal year, and the amount of deposits now to the credit of men of the corps shows that the spirit of thrift among the men is constantly increasing. Special instruction in regard to this privilege is given at recruit depots.

RECRUITING.

There are now 10 recruiting districts and 140 stations. The following statement shows the progress of recruiting during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1912:

	Fiscal year ending June 30—	
	1911.	1912.
Total number enlisted.....	4,161	4,310
Increase in enlistments, 4 per cent.		
Net desertions.....	1,298	917
Percentage of desertions to total borne on rolls.....	9.7	6.7
A decrease of desertions of 31 per cent.		
Apprehended and surrendered from desertion.....	140	218
An increase of apprehensions, etc., of 56 per cent.		
Dishonorable discharge, sentence general court martial.....	219	173
A decrease of dishonorable discharges of 21 per cent.		
Reenlisted from Marine Corps.....	536	729
Percentage reenlisting from Marine Corps.....	12.9	20.0
Total reenlistments (including those from Army).....	834	998
Percentage of reenlistments.....	16.9	23.1
Discharges by medical survey within three months of date of enlistment.....	226	47
A decrease of medical surveys of 79 per cent.		
Cost per recruit, including transportation.....	\$57.99	\$61.14
Cost per recruit, excluding transportation.....	\$38.88	\$40.75

This increase in the cost per recruit is more apparent than real and is caused by the fact that under the system in vogue during previous years the number used as a divisor into the total amount spent included all of those men who deserted and were surveyed within three months after enlistment, whereas under the present system these men are classed as "elopers" or "rejected" at recruit depots and do not appear under the caption "Total enlisted." In other words, the cost per recruit in the fiscal year 1912 is a close approximation of cost per net recruit, whereas in former years the cost shown was cost per gross recruit.

This apparent increase in cost per recruit is more than offset by the large saving in pay and allowances to a smaller number of deserters, and pay, allowances, and mileage to 79 per cent less men discharged by medical survey.

The standard of recruits, both as to physique and educational requirements, has been materially bettered during the year.

At the present time the Marine Corps is short of its authorized complement by 438 men, due to the fact that on the 22d of August, 1912, the authorized enlisted strength of the Marine Corps was increased by 400 men, at which date the corps was practically at its full complement as then authorized.

The new system of recruiting and training, as outlined in last year's report, has been an unqualified success, as disclosed by the above table. Since January 1, 1912, when the new system became well established, the number of desertions to the close of the fiscal year was 420 as compared with 634 for the same period of the preceding fiscal year, a decrease of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.

By means of the finger-print system applicants endeavoring to enlist fraudulently have been, since October 1, 1911, prevented, as follows:

Formerly in Marine Corps-----	105
Formerly in Navy-----	40
Formerly in Army-----	25
Fraudulent applicants detected-----	170

Since the same date the finger-print files have been the means of detecting 82 former marines who sought to enter the Navy and 20 former marines who sought to enter the Army, claiming no prior service.

A comprehensive set of instructions governing the recruiting service has been issued, printed in neat pamphlet form.

RECRUIT DEPOTS.

In July, 1911, recruit depots were established at Philadelphia, Pa., at Mare Island, Cal., and at Puget Sound, Wash.

On August 30 the buildings occupied by the Marine Officers' School and the recruit depot at Port Royal, S. C., were turned over to the Navy for disciplinary purposes. This necessitated moving the Marine Officers' School to Norfolk, Va., and establishing recruit depots at Charleston, S. C., and Norfolk, Va.

Experience having demonstrated that the best results could not be obtained with small depots, the ones at Charleston, S. C., and at Puget Sound, Wash., were closed about June 1, 1912, all recruits on

the west coast being sent to the depot at Mare Island, Cal. This consolidation has resulted in a decided improvement on the west coast; and, while the results have not been so marked on the east coast, due to lack of proper equipment at Norfolk, Va., for the number that have been accommodated, there has been a considerable reduction in expenses of transportation.

The establishment of a single large depot with proper equipment and buildings for the Eastern States would result in a decided improvement, and, once established, could be maintained at reduced per capita expense.

Neither Philadelphia, Pa., Norfolk, Va., nor Mare Island, Cal., is properly prepared to handle recruits, and the desired results can not be obtained until the Marine Corps is provided with the necessary buildings for a fully equipped recruit depot on each coast.

On the west coast Mare Island is decidedly the best location, and of all the posts on the eastern coast Norfolk, Va., furnishes the most advantages for a recruit depot. Adjacent to the Marine Corps reservation at that yard is a considerable extent of unoccupied ground belonging to the Navy, which, if utilized for the above purposes, would enable a depot to be built capable of handling all the recruits on the Atlantic coast.

It is therefore recommended that this land be assigned to the Marine Corps for this purpose and that this office be authorized to prepare the estimates for the construction of the necessary buildings for a complete depot at that post.

During the fiscal year recruits have been under instruction, as follows:

Philadelphia, Pa.....	906
Norfolk, Va.....	1,075
Charleston, S. C.....	486
Mare Island, Cal.....	502
Puget Sound, Wash.....	255

Owing to the urgent necessity for men for expeditionary service it has been necessary at times to send men to active service when the course at the recruit depot was only half completed. This is unfortunate, as it is believed that the desired results can not be obtained in less time than is allotted to the full course of instruction. In order, however, to meet this condition as far as possible the course as originally laid out has been changed so that by the end of the ninth week recruits are fairly well equipped for field service. When the weather will permit, the seventh, eighth, and ninth weeks are devoted to instruction in rifle firing and range practice, the whole course having been lengthened to 14 weeks.

The results obtained at the Marine Corps rifle range, Winthrop, Md., have been most satisfactory, approximately 720 having already fired the Army marksman's course with about 46 per cent of qualifications.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

The Swedish system of physical training, as adapted by Surg. Joseph A. Murphy, United States Navy, has been in use at the recruit depot with satisfactory results. It is recommended that the system be extended to the whole service, replacing the present official system of physical exercises.

The duties the Marine Corps is called upon to perform are so arduous that it is necessary that the officers and enlisted men be in the best of physical condition, and to this end it is recommended that the policy be adopted of erecting suitable gymnasiums at the various posts not so equipped; the lack of buildings of this character is especially felt at the recruit depots.

TRAINING FOR SEA SERVICE.

The marine barracks, Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., has been used for training men for service afloat and for assembling detachments for ships about to be put in commission, but on account of the necessity of transferring all available men to expeditionary service, it is impossible to determine the benefits derived from this system.

COMPANY ORGANIZATION.

Company organization at the larger posts has worked well, though the training deemed necessary by this office has not been possible, due to the requirements of guard duty. This office considers that the present system of guarding navy yards requires an excessive number of men, and that by the extension of the patrol system the yards can be properly guarded with a smaller number of men and more time made available for the training of officers and men in their naval and military duties.

All the organized companies on the Atlantic coast have been on expeditionary service, and the company organization, together with the adoption of a system of keeping pay-roll data in service record books, has resulted in more efficient mobilization than was possible under the old method.

SHIP'S DETACHMENTS.

During the past year the policy of placing marines on small ships has been adopted, and the size of marine detachments allotted to ships of the Navy has been standardized, the numbers being based on the types of ships and the size of the crews.

This office regrets that owing to the shortage of officers and men in some cases smaller detachments had to be provided than the department originally contemplated. It believes that the best results will obtain when there are sufficient officers and men available to assign an officer to each small detachment and to have no detachment of less than one section of 27 men.

In this connection it is recommended that officers, while serving at sea, receive the increase of 10 per cent now authorized by law for officers of the Navy, and that, if practicable, this provision be extended to include men of the Marine Corps.

TARGET PRACTICE.

Target practice has been conducted in the Marine Corps with excellent results this season. The range of the Bay State Rifle Association at Wakefield, Mass., was leased by the Marine Corps for the season, and, through the courtesy of the War Department, the Army

range at Fort Barry, Cal., has been used by the marines at Mare Island, Cal., and detachments from ships in that vicinity.

The Marine Corps rifle range at Winthrop, Md., has afforded practice to the recruits from the depots at Norfolk and Philadelphia, and the most gratifying results have been obtained with these men. Rifle practice is considered an indispensable part of the recruit's training, and the Winthrop range has been an invaluable adjunct to the large recruit depots at Norfolk and Philadelphia.

The qualifications for the target year 1912 to date are as follows:

	Officers.	Enlisted men.
Expert riflemen.....	15	148
Sharpshooters.....	14	1,059
Marksmen.....	1	383

By an appropriation of \$7,000 the Marine Corps was enabled to extend and improve the range at Puget Sound, Wash., which now affords facilities for target practice to the command at Puget Sound and to the detachments of such ships as may be in that vicinity.

COMPETITIONS.

The competitions prescribed in General Order No. 112, Navy Department, April 26, 1911, are held whenever practicable and undoubtedly stimulate interest in target practice.

On April 6 to 8, 1912, the rifle match for the open championship of North China was held at Tien-Tsin, China. There were 215 entries from foreign troops and rifle clubs of Peking, Tien-Tsin, and vicinity. This match was won by Pvt. Chester Hendrickson, of the Marine Corps, and members of the Marine Corps took the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh places, respectively.

The International Legation Guards rifle match took place at Peking, China, on June 5, 1912, teams from the American, British, German, Holland, Russian, and Italian legations competing. The marine detachment of the American legation took first place in the team match. In the individual match the five American marines entered took the first five places. Pvt. Ray J. Cook took first place in the individual match.

MARINE CORPS RIFLE TEAM.

A rifle team squad was organized at Wakefield, Mass., on August 9, 1912, under command of Capt. Harry R. Lay. The team competed in 11 matches at Wakefield, Mass., winning 8 first places. In the latter part of August this squad proceeded to Sea Girt, N. J., for the matches of the New Jersey State Rifle Association, winning the Evans skirmish match and a number of individual matches. Considering the fact that practically all of the men were new, had had no previous experience with a rifle team, and were assembled but a short time previous to the matches, their work was excellent. No national match was held this year.

COOKS AND BAKERS.

The War Department having granted authority for the instruction of men of the Marine Corps at the Army training schools for cooks and bakers, located at Washington Barracks, D. C., and the Presidio of San Francisco, Cal., orders were issued for the detail of two men to take the course of instruction at Washington Barracks for the term beginning September 15, 1911, also the detail of two men to take the course at Presidio of San Francisco. The men on the east coast are detailed monthly, and those on the west coast, beginning October 15, 1911, bimonthly. The men selected for instruction have been taken from the various posts on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and the results obtained are constantly being shown by the improvement of the messes in connection with the establishing of the component-ration system which was referred to in my last Annual Report.

EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

A provisional brigade of marines, consisting of 69 officers and 2,008 men, was assembled at Philadelphia, Pa., and Norfolk, Va., for temporary foreign tropical shore service. The First Regiment, consisting of 29 officers and 756 men, under command of Col. Lincoln Karmany, embarked on the U. S. S. *Prairie*, at Philadelphia, Pa., May 23, 1912. The Second Regiment, consisting of 40 officers and 1,252 men, under command of Col. James E. Mahoney, was distributed on the following vessels of the United States Atlantic Fleet, which sailed on May 25, 26, and 27, 1912: U. S. S. *Georgia*, *Minnesota*, *Mississippi*, *Missouri*, *Nebraska*, *New Jersey*, *Ohio*, *Rhode Island*, and *Washington*. Col. George Barnett assumed command of the First Regiment on June 7, 1912, relieving Col. Lincoln Karmany, who assumed command of the First Provisional Brigade, consisting of the First and Second Regiments. With the exception of a battalion of two companies retained at Camp Meyer, Cuba, the officers and men who composed this brigade returned to the United States on July 9 and 24, and on August 5, 1912, and were sent back to the posts from which they were originally drawn.

Early in August a battalion of marines, consisting of 10 officers and 338 men, was transferred from Panama to Nicaragua for duty. A provisional regiment of marines, consisting of 29 officers and 750 men, under command of Col. Joseph H. Pendleton, was assembled, embarked, and sailed from Philadelphia on the U. S. S. *Prairie* on August 24, 1912, for service in Nicaragua. On September 27, 1912, a regiment of 28 officers and 767 men, under command of Col. Franklin J. Moses, was assembled, embarked, and sailed from Philadelphia on the U. S. S. *Prairie* for duty in Santo Domingo.

CAMPAIGN BADGES.

Since the date of last Annual Report the following campaign badges and bars have been issued to officers and men of the Marine Corps:

Civil War campaign badges and bars-----	26
Spanish campaign badges and bars-----	12
China campaign badges and bars-----	14
Philippine campaign badges and bars-----	21
Army of Cuban Pacification badges and bars-----	155

ADVANCED-BASE SCHOOL.

In July, 1912, this office issued instructions covering the work to be carried on at this school, the objects being:

(a) To train the officers and men in the handling, installing, and using to the best advantage in action of such advanced-base matériel as may be provided.

(b) To investigate and determine what matériel is needed for, and is best suited to, advanced-base work. This includes number, caliber, and types of guns; quantities and kinds of ammunition; number and types of mines; types of gun platforms; types of magazines; automobile and torpedo defense; water and land transportation; and in general the number and types of all the various appliances required to transport, install, and fight the matériel provided for the defense of advanced bases.

(c) Theoretical study by officers of such military and naval subjects as pertain to the selection, occupation, and attack and defense of advanced-base positions, or to expeditionary service in general, including the services of communication, supply, and sanitation. The course of one year was divided into two parts:

(1) November 1 to April 30, inclusive: To be devoted to theoretical work, with such practical exercises as the weather would permit and as could be carried on indoors.

(2) May 1 to October 31: To be devoted to practical work, with such theoretical work as might be considered desirable. During this period the advanced-base battalion should be trained in field maneuvers, camping, handling of heavy weights, mounting and dismounting of guns, and, if practicable, embarkation and debarkation, under conditions as nearly similar as practicable to those which would probably exist in actual service.

A careful study has been made of all the ordnance and other matériel required for an advanced-base outfit, and a special report has been made to the department on this subject, together with a report on the amount of stowage space that would be required on board a transport.

While the types of guns required have been determined, no satisfactory platform has as yet been devised, though experiments are now being carried on to this end. Platforms constructed in accordance with plans submitted were tried out at the Naval Proving Grounds, Indian Head, Md., but were not satisfactory.

Considerable work has been done looking to the improvement of the naval-defense mine, and experiments will be carried on as soon as practicable to determine the utility of the recommendations made.

All the advanced-base matériel on the Atlantic coast has been assembled at Philadelphia, Pa., but little of it would be of use in case of hostilities.

It is recommended that, as soon as practicable, the various pieces of ordnance required for an advanced base be assembled. The Bureau of Ordnance has allotted \$50,000 to be expended during the current fiscal year for the purchase of accessories. Before all this matériel is assembled it will be necessary to have a special storehouse built for the outfit, as rapid embarkation will require that the matériel be placed in the storehouse in accordance with a well-thought-

out plan of stowage. This storehouse should be of sufficient size to permit indoor handling of heavy weights during the winter months.

A class of officers was assembled prior to the 1st of November, 1911, and the prescribed theoretical course was carried out. In May, owing to the urgent necessity for an expeditionary force, the officers and men attached to the Advanced Base Battalion were transferred to foreign service, and are still absent from the United States.

The proper training of officers and men in advanced-base work can only be accomplished through consistent, progressive work, carried on without interruption, and it is believed that the desired results can not be obtained until the Marine Corps has a sufficient number of officers and men to enable it to provide the ordinary expeditionary force without calling upon the force engaged in the advanced-base training. So far it has not been possible to bring the Advanced Base Battalion to a greater strength than approximately 300 men.

To install an advanced base outfit and properly defend it will require a brigade of two regiments of approximately 1,300 officers and men each; one regiment being for fixed defenses and the other for mobile defenses, each to act as a reserve for the other. The force assigned to the fixed defenses should be the one stationed at the advanced base school, and this office desires to represent to the department its belief that a sufficient number of officers and men should be provided to enable the fixed defense regiment to be brought to its full strength at the earliest practicable date.

AVIATION.

In view of the great benefit to an advanced base force that might result from trained aviators, two officers and one man of the Marine Corps have been under instruction in aviation at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., and it is hoped that during the coming year this number may be considerably increased.

TRANSPORTS.

The attention of the department is invited to the urgent necessity for properly designed and fitted-out transports for use of the Marine Corps. At present the only ship available on the Atlantic coast is the U. S. S. *Prairie*, and while 750 to 800 officers and men can be transported on this ship for short trips, yet this can be done only by most insanitary crowding, the extent of which can be realized only by those who have served on board under those conditions. Transports for use of the Marine Corps are required for:

- (a) Expeditions.
- (b) In connection with peace training, in advanced base work.
- (c) Relief of men on foreign service.

MARINE OFFICERS' SCHOOL.

The operations of the Marine Officers' School, which on August 30, 1911, was moved from Port Royal, S. C., to Norfolk, Va., were carried on until the end of May, 1912, when, owing to expeditionary service, the class at the school was graduated and transferred to active service.

During the past year the officers under instruction were required to live in tents and were subject to a great deal of discomfort, and carried on their work under very trying circumstances, particularly during the severe weather of the winter months. In view of the most beneficial results derived from requiring all officers appointed to the Marine Corps to take the course of instruction laid down, it is earnestly recommended to the department that the necessary steps be taken to provide at the navy yard, Norfolk, Va., in connection with the Marine Barracks, a suitable building, capable of accommodating, at its full capacity, a class of 30 officers, together with the necessary class and lecture rooms. In this connection it is desired to renew the recommendation that hereafter, so far as practicable, officers of the Marine Corps be appointed from graduates of the United States Naval Academy, and that the necessary steps be taken to amend the present law so that graduates may be appointed to the Marine Corps upon graduation.

It is further recommended that in case of civilian appointments the age limit be changed so that appointments will be limited to those not less than 19 years nor more than 23 years of age; that all appointments be on probation for a period of two years; and that no ex-midshipman who has been dropped or dismissed from the Naval Academy shall be commissioned in the Marine Corps prior to the graduation of the class to which he belonged.

INSTRUCTION OF OFFICERS AT ARMY SCHOOLS.

Two field officers of the Marine Corps completed the course of instruction at the Army War College for the school year ended June 30, 1912. Two field officers took the course of instruction for field officers at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., during the months of January, February, and March, 1912. These two officers have been detailed to take the course of instruction at the Army War College, Washington, D. C., for the school year beginning September 1, 1912.

Two captains of the Marine Corps graduated from the Army School of the Line, Fort Leavenworth, Kans., on June 21, 1912, and two other captains have been detailed to take the course during the coming year.

LANGUAGE STUDIES OF MILITARY ATTACHÉS.

Four officers of the Marine Corps are detailed as naval attachés and are under instruction as students of foreign languages, as follows: Two at the American Embassy, Tokio, Japan, and two at the American Legation, Peking, China. From reports received at this office it is understood that they are making very satisfactory progress.

MATÉRIEL.

During the past year the money appropriated by Congress for the maintenance of the Marine Corps has been judiciously expended. The appropriation "Repair of barracks" has been utilized in making such minor repairs and alterations as were necessary to keep the barracks in proper condition for habitation. As has been the case in

past years, a great drain has been made on this appropriation because of the condition and requirements of the older barracks.

The report of the officer in charge of the quartermaster's department shows that minor repairs and improvements have been made during the past year at all the stations.

The policy adopted by the department of having the Bureau of Ordnance, United States Navy, furnish to the Marine Corps all ordnance material other than small-arm ammunition and equipment will result in a decided improvement in the preparedness of the Marine Corps for active service and for service on board ship.

CHARLESTON, S. C.

Barracks and quarters have been provided with screens, and new plumbing, lighting, and heating fixtures have been installed. The old barracks building was overhauled and placed in use as a dormitory for recruits. This post was visited by a hurricane in August, 1911, but the damage was slight, amounting to about \$350.

DEPOT OF SUPPLIES, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

The present building occupied by the depot of supplies in Philadelphia, Pa., is inadequate to the demands being made upon it and it has become necessary to rent suitable space in a building located about one-quarter of a mile from the depot, for which an annual rental of \$2,550 is paid. It is from this depot that all expeditionary forces on the Atlantic coast are fitted out, and as funds become available it is considered necessary to increase the supplies carried at this depot to the amount required to fully equip 3,000 men.

An item of \$175,000 was included in the public works estimates of the quartermaster's department for 1914 for the purpose of purchasing a site and erecting an addition to the present building for the use of the depot, and it will be in the interests of economy as well as efficiency to secure this appropriation for the object stated.

DEPOT OF SUPPLIES, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

The importance and work of the depot of supplies in San Francisco is steadily increasing. The report of the depot quartermaster in charge at that point shows that during the past year the increase in the value of stock received was \$103,180.49. The disbursements exceeded the disbursements of the previous year by \$17,681.23.

The building formerly occupied by this depot was neither fireproof nor adequate in size, and about September 1, 1912, the depot was moved to 36 Annie Street, San Francisco, and now occupies a new modern, fireproof structure of adequate size.

There are, at present, in this depot, stores for an expeditionary force of approximately 500 men. These will be increased immediately to the amount necessary for 750 men, and, as funds become available, to that necessary for a complete regiment.

KEY WEST, FLA.

These headquarters have recommended that the unexpended balance of the special appropriations asked for the erection of officers' quarters at Pensacola, Fla., under acts approved March 22, 1907, and May 13, 1908, be transferred for use in the erection of suitable

quarters at Key West. Congress granted this request in the naval appropriation act approved August 22, 1912, and plans are now being prepared for one house in accordance therewith.

MARE ISLAND, CAL.

This has always been the principal station of the Marine Corps on the Pacific coast, and it is expected that its importance will increase in the future, as it is understood to be the policy of the department that an advance-base force will eventually be assembled there.

The present buildings are old, insanitary, and with the exception of the barracks and officers' quarters, are of a temporary nature, and are entirely inadequate for the command that is now necessary to be quartered at this post. At present approximately 500 men are living in tents. This method of housing men is most expensive, owing to the fact that tentage rapidly deteriorates. With a view of reducing expense under this head, until Congress provides permanent facilities, 13 small, temporary, frame buildings, for the accommodation of 100 men, were erected as an experiment. While this is an improvement over the tentage, it is a most unsatisfactory method of providing shelter.

The grounds, walks, etc., at this post have been extended and otherwise improved, and construction has been authorized of a central heating plant.

The recruit depot on the Pacific coast has been established at this station, and in view of the lack of facilities and proper buildings at this post, it is strongly recommended that representation be made to Congress as to the urgent necessity of providing suitable buildings for a complete post at that place.

MARINE CORPS RIFLE RANGE, WINTHROP, MD.

More or less extensive improvements have been made at this station from time to time during the year out of the appropriation made by Congress of \$20,000 in the act approved March 4, 1911. These were made under the direction of the Bureau of Yards and Docks under the head of "Public works." The Quartermaster's Department has erected a new bakery and installed proper fire-fighting facilities, the chemical fire engine formerly used at Newport, R. I., having been transferred to Winthrop when the former post was abandoned. Window and door screens have been provided for the barracks and other buildings, with the result that there has been practically no malaria during the last year.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

The commanding and junior officers' quarters at New York were connected with the central Marine Corp's heating plant at that post, and various minor improvements were made to the barracks.

NORFOLK, VA.

Officers' quarters sufficient to accommodate 10 additional officers, for which special appropriation was provided in the act approved

June 24, 1910, amounting to \$47,500, were erected under contract with R. H. Richardson & Son, and will be ready for occupancy in a short time. One of these houses is intended for eight bachelor officers, and both of the buildings have been connected with the yard sewerage and lighting systems. The parade ground has been greatly improved and cement walks were laid. Bids will be opened in the near future for a new sump pit at this station.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

In the act approved June 24, 1910, Congress appropriated the sum of \$70,000 for the erection of one commanding officer's, one double junior officers', and one bachelor officers' quarters. The contract for the erection of these quarters was awarded on July 31, 1911, and they are now about completed and will be ready for occupancy as soon as furniture is installed. The water, sewer, and electric lighting systems for the Marine Corps' buildings have been connected with the yard service. The grounds around the buildings are being graded and this work will be continued from time to time when money is available from the regular appropriations. In the naval appropriation bill for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1912, there is a provision for erecting an additional barracks building at this post at a cost not to exceed \$175,000, and preliminary plans and specifications for this building are now being prepared by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, on suggestions furnished by the Quartermaster's Department of the Marine Corps.

PORT ROYAL, S. C.

This station, including the buildings and public property belonging to the Marine Corps, was formally turned over to the Navy Department and is now used as a naval disciplinary barracks, and the expense of maintenance is borne by the Navy Department.

PUGET SOUND, WASH.

In the act approved March 3, 1909, provision was made for a new barracks building and a contract entered into for its erection on May 29, 1911, at the contract price of \$135,428. This building was turned over to the Marine Corps by the contractor and accepted May 30, 1912, four months prior to the date specified in the contract. A large amount of grading and clearing has been found necessary owing to the fact that the plat of ground where the barracks is located was practically a wilderness. This work is being done as rapidly as the appropriations will permit. The old barracks building at this station has been turned over to the Navy for use as a disciplinary barracks, and equipment for about 120 men was left therein at the time of transfer. The new officers' quarters have been provided with the necessary furniture and screens.

CAMP ELLIOTT, PANAMA.

The buildings and grounds at this post are in a satisfactory condition, considering the age of the old French houses. Considerable

damage was done to the buildings in May, 1912, by a severe hurricane, and repairs were made out of current appropriations. No unusual repairs or improvements were made except what was necessary for the upkeep of the buildings and grounds, which is considerable in the course of a year, owing to the severe climatic influences of the tropics. In view of the duty assigned the Navy in connection with the frequent disorders occurring in Central American and West Indian waters, it is considered very desirable that a considerable marine force, fully equipped and properly trained for expeditionary service, be retained on the Isthmus. As soon as the canal is flooded it will be necessary to abandon the site now occupied by the Marine Corps, and during the past year a very desirable site on the Isthmian Canal Zone has been allotted for the use of the Marine Corps; and it is earnestly recommended that the necessary steps be taken to prepare the new site for occupancy and to erect the necessary buildings. In this connection it is suggested to the department that the work of construction will be considerably less expensive prior than after the canal is opened.

On June 30, 1912, the strength of the command at Camp Elliott was 14 officers and 381 men, a shortage of 1 officer and 49 men. On August 6, 1912, a battalion consisting of 10 officers and 338 men was transferred to Nicaragua for duty.

GUAM.

The marine command at Guam consists of 5 officers and 104 men, and from reports on file at these headquarters it appears that the health of the command has been excellent during the past year. As at many other posts of the corps, the barracks accommodations are not sufficient for the number of men required at the post. The commandant of the station has recommended that the detachment be increased by 1 officer and 50 men, but no officer or men are available for this increase.

GUANTANAMO.

In July, 1912, this command was increased to 2 officers and 100 men. Minor repairs have been made to the buildings temporarily occupied by the Marine Corps at this station, including painting throughout, and doors and windows have been screened. No definite action has as yet been taken toward expending the \$10,000 provided in the act approved March 2, 1907, for the erection of a marine barracks at Guantanamo.

In view of the frequency with which Deer Point is used as a camp site for the Navy or Marine Corps, it is recommended that as soon as practicable the wharf and roads be improved, that storehouses be erected, and the water supply increased.

HONOLULU, HAWAII.

In the act approved March 3, 1909, Congress appropriated \$185,000 for barracks and quarters at the naval station, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Under date of March 19, 1912, after due competition, contract for the construction of these barracks and quarters was awarded to the

Spalding Construction Co., Portland, Oreg., and it is expected that the buildings will be completed and ready for occupancy on or about June 17, 1913.

On June 30, 1912, the strength of the marine battalion at Honolulu consisted of 7 officers and 164 men, a shortage of 1 officer and 47 men, and when the new barracks are completed it is considered that this force should be considerably increased.

PEKING, CHINA.

Reports show that the condition of affairs in this command is most satisfactory. Various minor repairs and improvements have been made in the barracks and quarters, and the legation defenses have been increased.

Owing to the conditions of unrest prevailing in China during the past year, it became necessary to increase the regular legation guard by one company. It is now composed of 8 officers and 213 men, a shortage of approximately 18 men.

PHILIPPINES.

The strength of the marine brigade in the Philippines on June 30, 1912, was 39 officers and 1,080 men, a shortage of 10 officers and 76 men.

Owing to the revolution in China, on October 24, 1911, a battalion of 15 officers and 362 men, under command of Maj. Philip M. Bannon, United States Marine Corps, was embarked on the U. S. S. *Rainbow* at Olongapo, and on December 7, 1911, an additional company, consisting of 3 officers and 90 men was added to this battalion.

The commanding officer of the marine brigade in the Philippines, in his annual report, states as follows:

It is understood that the *Rainbow* is held at this station primarily for expeditionary purposes and for use in connection with the advanced-base outfit, but that vessel is not large enough to accommodate an expeditionary force of a considerable size, and she has little or no sleeping accommodations for troops.

As one of the principal duties of the marine brigade in the Philippines is to serve, in case of necessity, as an expeditionary force in Asiatic waters, it is recommended that, if practicable, this condition be rectified, as it may be necessary for the expeditionary force to remain for months at a time on board the transport.

Minor repairs and improvements have been made to the barracks and quarters at Cavite and Olongapo so far as money available for the purpose permitted; but, as stated in my last annual report, the accommodations for both officers and men are far from what they should be in order to insure the health and comfort of the commands.

In connection with this the department's attention is invited to the fact that the expansion of the naval station at Olongapo will probably require in the near future that the site now occupied by the Marine Corps buildings be vacated for yard purposes, which will necessitate the erection of buildings capable of housing a regiment with its stores and one advanced-base outfit on the site originally allotted to the Marine Corps.

As a result of Manila Harbor improvements certain lots of reclaimed land in the Manila port district were set aside for the use of the Marine Corps. In view of the desirability of the site and of the fact that if the Marine Corps does not avail itself of the opportunity to acquire it, the allotment will probably be withdrawn and the land assigned to other purposes, an item of \$200,000 for the purchase of this site and the erection thereon of a headquarters building and depot of supplies has been included in the preliminary estimates of the Quartermaster's Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1913.

WITHDRAWAL OF MARINE GARRISONS.

In accordance with the orders of the department, the marine garrisons at Sitka, Alaska, and the naval hospital, Yokohama, Japan, were withdrawn, the former on March 18, 1912, and the latter on July 9, 1912.

W. P. BIDDLE.



NAVY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
OF THE UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR 1913



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1913



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
Washington, October 11, 1913.

To: The Secretary of the Navy (Personnel).

Subject: Annual report of the condition and service of the United States Marine Corps for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1913.

Reference: (a) Letter, Acting Secretary of the Navy, 5087-111, July 15, 1913.

1. In compliance with the department's instructions contained in reference (a), I have the honor to submit the following report of the conditions and service of the United States Marine Corps for the last fiscal year.

2. During the period covered by this report either the undersigned or officers of the Adjutant and Inspector's Department have made inspections of all the posts of the Marine Corps, with the exception of Guam, and of the detachments on board all receiving ships. The reports of these inspections show a satisfactory condition of the corps as to health, discipline, and efficiency. Adverse criticism has been made of some of the barracks, due to their being obsolete as to construction and inadequate as to capacity, and to lack of proper accessories, such as combined drill hall and gymnasium and proper facilities to provide legitimate amusements within the garrison for the enlisted men thereof. Where such amusements are not provided the tendency is for the men to seek diversion outside the post under conditions that can not but have a bad effect and which frequently result in desertion. So far as possible these conditions are being overcome, but there can be no decided improvement except by special appropriations from year to year.

PERSONNEL.

3. As a result of a careful supervision of the recruiting service and of the recruit depots from these headquarters, it is believed that there has been a considerable improvement in the standard of the enlisted personnel of the Marine Corps, and at the same time the corps has been recruited to its full authorized strength.

4. The present strength of the Marine Corps is inadequate to properly perform all its legitimate duties at all times, i. e., when expeditions are absent from the United States the complement of men at the navy yards, naval prisons, receiving ships, and other stations, have to be reduced to such an extent as to interfere with the efficiency of the stations concerned—to form two advance base regiments (one on each coast) will require on a peace footing practically

every officer and enlisted man now assigned to duty at navy yards, leaving the yards unguarded in whole or in part.

5. Under the department's policy of having the authorized enlisted strength of the Marine Corps one-fifth of that of the authorized enlisted strength of the Navy, the Marine Corps as authorized is at present 379 men short of its proper proportion; it is recommended that a representation be made to the Congress to provide for an increase as above, and in case additional men are authorized for the Navy, the number given above be correspondingly increased.

6. The proportion of officers to men in the Marine Corps is entirely too low, and on the expeditions during the past year, though every officer available was taken, the organizations were underofficered; the companies were generally of 120 to 130 men each. The present proportion is 1 officer (line and staff combined) to $34\frac{1}{2}$ enlisted men; this is about the proper proportion for company officers of the line, but when the necessary number of staff officers and field officers of the line, officers on detached duty, sick, en route to and from foreign service, etc., are considered, the proportion is entirely too small and it is believed that the proper one is 50 officers to 1,000 men; that is, 1 officer to 20 men. That this is not excessive is shown by the fact that the proportion considered proper for the infantry is $66\frac{2}{3}$ officers to 1,000 men.

7. It is recommended that the department adopt the policy of basing the number of officers of the Marine Corps upon the number of enlisted men authorized for the corps, and that the proportion of officers to enlisted men, which is now 1 officer (line and staff combined) to 34.5 men, be increased gradually to one officer (line and staff combined) to 20 men.

8. In view of the undesirability of increasing the commissioned personnel of the corps in time of peace in any one year by more than 10 per cent, it is recommended that the number of officers for the coming year be increased by 34. As the result of the examinations held in July a number of candidates, sufficient to fill existing vacancies, were found qualified but have not been commissioned as yet; as the course of instruction lasts approximately 15 months these officers will not be ready for duty until the spring of 1915, and any officers who may be authorized during the coming year will not be available before the 1st of January, 1916. In this connection, it is recommended that, hereafter, vacancies in the Marine Corps in the grade of second lieutenant be filled, first, by graduates of the Naval Academy; second, by meritorious noncommissioned officers of the Marine Corps; and third, in case the former two classes are not sufficient to fill existing vacancies at the end of the fiscal year by the appointment of persons from civil life, not under 18 nor more than 22 years of age.

FIELD CLERKS.

9. It is recommended that the status of field clerks of the Quartermaster's Department be changed and that the necessary recommendations be made to the Congress to the end that they be placed on the same footing as to pay and allowances as the general storekeeper's and paymaster's clerks of the Navy and clerks of the assistant paymasters of the Marine Corps, with the benefit of retirement, their

duties and responsibilities being very similar to those of the paymaster's clerks. At present these clerks receive \$1,400 per annum, and are stationed where their services can best be utilized for the efficiency of the department, and although civilians they accompany expeditionary forces. For their own protection in time of war, and in order that they would be obliged to obey proper orders without dispute or question, they should be given a military status and an appropriate uniform.

ENLISTED FORCE.

10. Gains and losses in the enlisted force during the year have been as follows:

Enlisted	2,998
Reenlisted from Marine Corps	723
Reenlisted from Army	321
Joined from desertion	262
Prisoners restored	17
Total gain	4,321
Discharged	2,809
Died	33
Deserted	1,021
Retired	22
Prisoners sentenced to dishonorable discharge	205
Total loss	4,090
Net gain	272

DISTRIBUTION OF FORCE.

11. Summary of distribution of officers and enlisted men, June 30, 1913:

	Officers.	Enlisted men.
On shore duty:		
In the United States	200	5,028
Outside United States	75	2,193
On board ship:		
Receiving ships	4	522
Cruising vessels	51	2,034

APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, DEATHS, ETC.

12. During the past year there have been 1 original appointment as first lieutenant, 21 appointments as second lieutenant, 4 retirements, 2 resignations, 2 resignations for the good of the service, 1 dismissal, 2 deaths on the active list, and 2 deaths on the retired list.

CAMPAIGN BADGES, GOOD-CONDUCT MEDALS, ETC.

13. Since the last report the following campaign badges and bars have been issued to officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps:

Twenty-eight Civil War campaign badges,
Twenty-two Spanish campaign badges,

Eighteen China campaign badges,
Twenty-eight Philippine campaign badges, and
Forty-three Army of Cuban Pacification badges.

14. During the past year 739 good-conduct medals and 182 good-conduct medal bars have been issued to men of the Marine Corps.

15. Under date of June 7, 1913, the Treasury Department awarded to former Sergt. Harry W. Miller a gold life-saving medal for heroic daring in rescuing a man from drowning in North River, N. Y., on December 27, 1911.

16. Capt. Fred D. Kilgore received a commendatory letter from the Secretary of the Navy for plunging overboard in an attempt to rescue an officer who had fallen overboard.

INDEBTEDNESSES TO POST EXCHANGES.

17. The system of collecting, through the Paymaster's Department, all indebtednesses of enlisted men to post exchanges has been found to operate in a very satisfactory way.

DEPOSITS.

18. The number and size of savings deposits during the last fiscal year show that economy and thrift on the part of the enlisted personnel are still on the increase, and that the advantages of the system of savings deposits are fully appreciated. This system is made the subject of special instruction at recruit depots.

RECRUITING.

19. There are now 3 recruiting divisions, 17 districts, and 132 stations. The following statement shows the progress of recruiting during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1913:

	Fiscal year ending June 30—	
	1912	1913
Total number enlisted.....	4,310	4,042
Decrease in enlistments of 6.2 per cent.		
Net desertions.....	1,006	913
Percentage of desertions to total borne on rolls.....	7.3	6.1
A decrease of desertions of 9.2 per cent.		
Apprehended and surrendered from desertion.....	218	262
An increase in apprehensions, etc., of 20 per cent.		
Dishonorable discharge, sentence general court-martial.....	173	177
Reenlisted from Marine Corps.....	729	723
Percentage reenlisting from Marine Corps.....	16.9	17.9
Total reenlistments (including those from Army).....	998	1,044
Percentage of reenlistments.....	23.2	25.8
Discharges by medical survey within three months from date of enlistment.....	47	21
A decrease of medical surveys of 55 per cent.		
Cost per recruit, including transportation.....	\$60.85	\$61.42
Cost per recruit, excluding transportation.....	\$40.62	\$40.67

20. At the present time the Marine Corps is enlisted to its authorized strength.

21. On April 1, 1913, the recruiting service of the Marine Corps was combined into three recruiting divisions, with headquarters at

Philadelphia, Pa., Chicago, Ill., and San Francisco, Cal., respectively. A field officer was placed in charge of each recruiting division, and in his hands were concentrated the administrative and inspection duties for that particular section.

22. While the plan has not been in operation long enough to make a comprehensive report of its workings, it is apparently working satisfactorily and to the betterment of the service generally.

23. This office has been impressed of late with the importance of excluding from the service that class of defectives who are more or less feeble-minded. The educational test on examination for enlistment is necessarily elemental, but there are many young men who can read and write who are physically sound and yet whose mental growth has been prematurely arrested. This class of defectives is peculiarly attracted to military life, but when enlisted are notoriously nonamenable to discipline.

24. It is the intention of this office to collate data and statistics of these cases, with a view to cooperation with the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and the civilian medical examiners appointed by the Marine Corps recruiting officers to eliminate as far as practicable this undesirable class.

RECRUIT DEPOTS.

25. During the last year the course of instruction at the recruit depots, navy yards, Philadelphia, Pa., and Norfolk, Va., has been carried out, except that when expeditions have been sent out it has been necessary to include all recruits who had been under instruction for six or more weeks.

26. During the fiscal year recruits have been under instruction as follows:

Mare Island -----	1, 016
Norfolk -----	1, 375
Philadelphia -----	749

27. With the exception of about four months, when the weather was too severe, the recruits from Philadelphia and Norfolk have fired the Army marksman course at the Marine Corps rifle range, Winthrop, Md.

28. Due to the fact that all available quarters at Philadelphia are required for the advance base regiment, and to the fact that experience has demonstrated that a single depot is more economical and efficient than two, on June 30 the recruit depot at Philadelphia was discontinued, and all recruits are now being sent to the depot at Norfolk, Va. At Norfolk all recruits are quartered in tents, and during the winter months this causes much discomfort and an increase in desertions. Classes in which men desiring it may receive instruction in arithmetic, grammar, spelling, geography, and United States history, are being arranged for, and as soon as possible it is intended that classes be started at other posts.

29. There are no suitable buildings in which indoor drills may be held in inclement weather, and the instruction has therefore been materially interfered with. Proper amusement rooms are not available, and it has been extremely difficult to provide suitable diversions for the large number of men new to the service, which must be assembled at the recruit depots. It has also been necessary for the

recruits to be thrown more or less into contact with the older men, and until their course of training is completed this is considered most undesirable, not only on account of the danger of spreading infectious diseases, to which the recruit is particularly liable, but also on account of the training of the recruit. The selection of a location for a recruit depot should be governed by climatic conditions, facilities for instruction, for which considerable land for drill purposes is needed, together with rifle range and facilities for instruction in boating, and expenses of transportation to and from the depot. On the supposition that certain land adjacent to the Marine Corps reservation at Norfolk would not be required for industrial purposes, this office made recommendation, in its last annual report, that this land be assigned to the Marine Corps for use by the recruit depot, but in view of the fact that this site is included in the latest plan for the industrial development of the yard, it will not be available for the Marine Corps. This office therefore recommends that sufficient land lying north of the Marine Corps reservation, Charleston, S. C., where the climate is such that outside instruction can be held at all seasons, be assigned to the Marine Corps for that purpose, and has included in its estimates a sum sufficient to erect the necessary buildings for the depot.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

30. The Swedish system of physical training, as adopted for the naval service, has been in use at the recruit depots throughout the entire year with most satisfactory results, and at the beginning of the present fiscal year (1913-14) instructions were issued directing the extension of this system of physical training to all posts of the Marine Corps. Lack of suitable gymnasiums at the various posts is a serious matter, particularly at recruit depots, where it is necessary that the physical instruction be most thorough.

TARGET PRACTICE.

31. *Qualifications.*—The number of men in the Marine Corps who have qualified as marksmen or better has steadily increased, as shown by the following tables:

	October, 1910.	October, 1911.	October, 1912.	June 30, 1913.
Expert riflemen.....	309	435	446	543
Sharpshooters.....	878	1,665	2,067	2,533
Marksmen.....	723	784	634	733
All grades.....	1,910	2,884	3,147	3,809
Per cent of total enlisted strength qualified in the various grades.	0.209	0.318	0.335	0.398

32. *Ranges.*—The same situation exists as in former years regarding ranges. The Army authorities, upon request, have courteously placed the Fort Barry range at the disposal of the Marine Corps during the month of October. Wakefield has been leased from the Bay State Military Rifle Association, and is now open for the commands at the barracks at Boston and Portsmouth, the prisons at those places, and the detachment aboard the *Southery*; also for

the detachments of such ships as may be in that vicinity and have an opportunity to fire. Capt. Thomas C. Turner is in command.

33. *Competitions.*—The Philippines Division competition was successfully held on March 10, 11, and 12, 1913. There were 61 entries, including 5 officers. The course for departmental competitions in the Army was fired, and first place was taken by Corpl. James E. Snow with the excellent score of 892. The usual medals were distributed, 5 officers being awarded bronze competition medals for their standing.

34. Because of the large number of men in Cuba in the early part of the year, and on account of the interest generally displayed in target practice, a division competition was authorized for the brigade stationed there. This was termed the "West Indies Division competition," and was held on March 27 and 28, 1913, at Camp Meyer, Deer Point, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Weather conditions were bad, but the first enlisted man attained a score of 852, which is very creditable. Four officers were awarded medals for their standing in this competition.

35. *Rifle-team squad.*—A rifle-team squad of approximately 40 men, under command of Capt. Douglas C. McDougal, was assembled at Wakefield, Mass., about May 26, 1913, for try out and instruction. Five officers were also among the candidates for the team. This squad participated in the matches of the New England State Rifle Association at Wakefield, and from the squad 26 men were selected to compete in the national matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

36. The team selected from Camp Perry squad finished fourth in the national match, and in the national individual match Lieut. L. W. T. Waller finished second and Pvt. C. H. Martin finished seventh. The work of the squad in team and individual work was most creditable in all matches at Camp Perry. From Camp Perry the squad went to Sea Girt, and a team from the squad won first place in the following matches:

The McAlpin trophy match, and

The Spencer silhouette team match.

The following individual matches were won by members of the squad:

Sea Girt championship match (Corpl. F. Lueders).

The Swiss match (Corpl. E. J. Blade).

The Libby trophy match (Sergt. C. R. Nordstrom).

The Remington Arms, U. M. C. expert match (Corpl. R. B. Moore).

37. *Miscellaneous notes.*—On April 21, 1913, an international rifle competition was held at Peking, China, under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., and was participated in by eight legation guards, as follows: Italy, Austria, Russia, Germany, United Kingdom, France, United States, and Holland. This match was won by the United States team, consisting of Sergt. Andrews, and Privts. Hendrickson, Williams, Rothwell, and Lapansky.

38. The open championship for North China was held at Tientsin, on May 10, 12, 1913. This rifle match was won for the third successive year by the marines. This year they took first, third, fourth, fifth, seventh, and eighth places, the Army taking second place. Sergt. John J. Andrews of the Marine Corps was high man. The Fifteenth United States Infantry had 30 entries, and the Marine Corps 18, out of a total of 94.

SERVICE AFLOAT.

39. So far as the demands made on the corps by expeditionary service would permit, the policy of sending officers and men to the Marine Barricks, Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., for training preliminary to service afloat, has been followed.

40. As soon as officers are available this office recommends that no detachment have less than 27 men, and that an officer be assigned to each detachment.

41. It is recommended that officers while serving at sea, receive the increase of 10 per cent now authorized by law for officers of the Navy, and that, if practicable, this provision be extended to include men of the Marine Corps.

42. It is recommended that junior marine officers serving afloat be assigned duty as watch officers in addition to their duties in connection with the detachments.

EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

43. An expeditionary force consisting of 13 officers and 341 enlisted men, under command of Maj. Smedley D. Butler, left Panama on the U. S. S. *Justin* August 10, 1912, and arrived at Corinto, Nicaragua, August 14, 1912.

44. A force of 29 officers and 752 enlisted men, under command of Col. Joseph H. Pendleton, sailed from Philadelphia, Pa., for Nicaragua on the U. S. S. *Prairie* August 24, 1912, arriving at Corinto on September 5, 1912. This force was augmented from time to time with detachments from the U. S. S. *California*, *Colorado*, *Cleveland*, *Denver*, and *Tacoma*, the whole force being under the command of Rear Admiral William H. H. Southerland, commander in chief Pacific Fleet.

45. The greater part of this force returned to Panama on November 21, 1912, and the remainder, except a guard for the American legation, Managua, on January 16, 1913, and from Panama was returned to original stations in the United States. Commendatory letters concerning the service rendered by this expeditionary force were received from the department, mentioning in particular Col. Joseph H. Pendleton, Lieut. Col. Charles G. Long, Maj. Smedley D. Butler, and Second Lieut. Earl C. Long.

46. A force of 27 officers and 755 enlisted men, under the command of Col. Franklin J. Moses, sailed from Philadelphia, Pa., on the U. S. S. *Prairie* September 27, 1912, for Santo Domingo. This force found no occasion to go ashore and remained aboard the *Prairie* until its return, December 1, 1912.

47. The Second Provisional Brigade, consisting of 72 officers and 2,097 enlisted men, sailed on the U. S. Army transport *Meade* from Philadelphia, Pa., February 20, 1913, and on the U. S. S. *Prairie* from Norfolk, February 19, 1913, for Guantanamo, Cuba, under command of Col. Lincoln Karmany. This brigade was composed of two regiments, the first under command of Col. George Barnett, and the second under command of Col. Joseph H. Pendleton. Several companies of this brigade returned to original stations May 2, 1913, and the remainder on June 1, 1913.

48. Attention is invited to the urgent necessity of providing by law for the administration of discipline in naval landing forces, and in Marine Corps forces when on expeditionary duty or on board a naval transport; appropriate recommendations have been submitted to the department.

ADVANCE BASE SCHOOL.

49. The course at the Advance Base School, Philadelphia, Pa., has been materially interfered with by the expeditions to Nicaragua, Santo Domingo, and Cuba, though actual service in the field has been of great value to the 3-inch landing gun battery and the signal company.

50. While the Second Provisional Brigade was in camp in Cuba a board was ordered to revise that part of the Landing Force and Small-Arm Instructions, United States Navy, dealing with field artillery, it being almost entirely inadequate and obsolete; the instructions formulated are now being tried out at those posts equipped with the 3-inch landing gun.

51. As soon as practicable after the return of this brigade, the school was reestablished, and the following organizations have been assembled there for advance base instructions:

- 1 5-inch battery,
- 1 3-inch battery,
- 1 3-inch landing gun battery,
- 1 mine company,
- 1 signal company,
- 1 engineer company—

a total of 26 officers and approximately 700 men.

52. Classes of men of the signal company are receiving instruction in elementary electricity, telegraphy, wireless telegraphy, and practical work as linemen. If the course of instruction is not interfered with by expeditionary service, these forces should be thoroughly prepared to efficiently carry out advance base exercises next winter in connection with the fleet.

53. After the exercises during the coming winter are completed, and as soon as officers and men are available, it is recommended that this regiment be completed, and that, as soon as practicable, a second fixed defense regiment be assembled. In connection with the second fixed defense regiment, the barracks at Mare Island are entirely inadequate for even the present garrison, and it is therefore recommended that a sum sufficient to start this project at least and relieve the present situation be included in the department's estimates to the Congress.

54. A large amount of ordnance and other stores is now being provided for use in connection with the advance base at Philadelphia, but adequate and proper storage facilities are lacking. In view of this, it is earnestly recommended that provision for a suitable storehouse be included in the estimates to be submitted to Congress.

55. Capt. Feland has continued his work in connection with the modification of the Navy mine, Mark I, and it is believed that he has evolved a system whereby that mine will be thoroughly satisfactory for advance base work.

AVIATION.

56. Two officers and seven men are now under instruction in aviation at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. It is recommended that these officers and men, with the necessary equipment, be transferred to the Marine Barracks, navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa., for duty in connection with the fixed defense regiment at that post.

TRANSPORTS.

57. The provision for a new transport, which was included in the last appropriation bill, and the department's order to fit out the *Hancock* as a transport, will be of the utmost benefit to the Marine Corps. In view, however, of the length of time required for construction, it is recommended that one transport, similar to the one authorized during the last fiscal year, be included in the department's building program.

MARINE OFFICERS' SCHOOL.

58. The regular course of instruction at the school has been materially interfered with by the necessity of sending officers under instruction on expeditionary duty. The temporary quarters provided for student officers at Norfolk, while much better than tents, are not at all appropriate for the use to which put, and the entire lack of drill-hall, gymnasium facilities, proper class and lecture-rooms, is a serious handicap to the efficiency of the school. There have been included in the appropriation estimates covering the amount necessary to provide a suitable building for this purpose, and it is earnestly recommended that this matter receive the department's approval.

INSTRUCTION OF OFFICERS AT SERVICE SCHOOLS.

59. Due to the courtesy of the War Department it has been possible to continue the policy of sending yearly two officers to the Army War College and two to the Army School of the Line.

60. Three officers have been detailed for instruction at the Naval War College.

MATÉRIEL.

61. The aggregate amount of the maintenance appropriations, which are exclusive of public works, provided by the Congress for the Quartermaster's Department for the period covered by this report, is \$3,095,357, which includes an item of \$56,500 under the head of "Provisions" authorized in deficiency act approved March 4, 1913, the latter amount being required to meet extraordinary expenses under the head mentioned on account of the expeditionary forces on field duty in the Tropics.

UNIFORM REGULATIONS.

62. The new uniform regulations were approved by the Acting Secretary of the Navy and the Major General Commandant under date of November 29, 1912. The changes in the uniform and equip-

ment, which are to be made as soon as practicable and completed not later than January 1, 1914, will be accomplished, it is hoped, by the date set in the Regulations for the completion of the changes. Contracts have been made for the new winter field shade material and some deliveries have been made, but there has been more or less delay in such deliveries on account of the several contractors being unable to obtain a satisfactory shade that would stand the prescribed tests.

PUBLIC WORKS.

63. More or less extensive improvements and additions at many of the stations of the corps are considered necessary for the proper instruction and housing of the men. The lack of proper gymnasiums, drill-halls, and amusement and instruction rooms at practically all posts of the corps is a most serious handicap in that the training of the men is interfered with, and owing to the lack of adequate facilities for legitimate entertainment they are led to go outside for their amusements.

BOSTON, MASS.

64. In the naval appropriation act approved March 4, 1913, provision is made for a new marine barracks and for new officers' quarters at this station, for which buildings \$100,000 and \$48,000, respectively, were appropriated. Consequently no repairs or improvements have been made to the old buildings except those of a temporary nature absolutely necessary for the health and comfort of the command.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

65. In the naval appropriation act approved August 22, 1912, \$175,000 was appropriated for "one additional fireproof barracks" at this place. Plans and specifications were prepared by the Bureau of Yards and Docks on suggestions furnished by this department. The contract for the building (Barracks No. 3) was awarded May 17, 1913, by the Navy Department to Thomas Reilly, 1616 Thompson Street, Philadelphia, Pa., at a cost of \$160,799. This building should be completed within 12 calendar months from date of contract. Steps are now being taken by the Bureau of Yards and Docks toward obtaining competition for the erection of the central heating plant and for the other items mentioned in the naval act of March 4, 1913, in which \$50,000 was appropriated for additional improvements at this post. The three sets of quarters constructed by Edward Fay & Son, under contract dated July 31, 1911, were completed during October, 1912.

DEPOT OF SUPPLIES, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

66. Attention is again invited to the highly desirable plan of making a further extension to the depot of supplies in Philadelphia. At various times the Congress has appropriated sums for this depot, including the purchase of land, until at the present time a very satisfactory manufacturing plant has been established in which nearly all of the clothing and equipment of the corps is manufactured, received, and distributed. The manufacturing has been so extended

as to, at the present time, include the making of haversacks, canteens, knapsacks, leggings, leather straps, and many other articles of equipment too numerous to mention, at a very material saving over the expense attending the purchase of those articles under former methods. It has also been demonstrated to be economical to make at this depot all of the clothing boxes, mess tables and benches, equipment for the bakeries, and various other carpenter work required at the various posts of the corps, but the present space is so cramped that this work can not be extended to its full limit. A great saving has also been effected by the manufacture of tentage required by the corps, in the same manner that the Army manufactures similar equipment at the Schuylkill Arsenal, in Philadelphia, but the present space is too small to admit of this work being carried on to the fullest extent. The officer in charge of the depot recently recommended that in the interest of economy a power plant should be installed, under which he estimates that a saving of from \$9,000 to \$11,000 would be effected, and it is also his recommendation to provide for railroad sidings to be run into this building, where he estimates there would be a further saving of \$800 to \$1,500 per annum in handling stores, to say nothing of the reduced prices which could be obtained in supplies purchased in carload lots. More space is needed in the present building to properly handle the stores and equipment returned from expeditionary forces, in order that necessary repairs to the same may be made and a reassembling effected. Owing to the limited space now provided it is necessary for efficiency to rent a storeroom in the vicinity of the present depot at an annual rental of \$2,233. This depot is being fully outfitted in the way of equipment, etc., for 3,000 men for field service.

PANAMA, I. C. Z.

67. In the naval appropriation act approved March 4, 1913. \$400,000 were appropriated for "Erection of barracks, quarters, and other buildings for accommodation of marines" on the Isthmus. Accordingly, a plot of land at Ancon was assigned as a site upon which to erect the new buildings. Permission was obtained from the Secretary of the Navy to proceed with the new construction work, which work is to be done by the Isthmian Canal Commission. Subsequently, however, the construction of the buildings was ordered to be held in abeyance until after the visit of the Secretary to the Isthmus. Only the most essential and urgent repairs have been made to the existing buildings, on which constant repairs are necessary, owing to severe climatic conditions there, in view of the early abandonment of that post. With the flooding of the canal the present site at Camp Elliott has become isolated and entirely unsuited for its present uses. The buildings are old and only such repairs have been made as were absolutely necessary for the health of the command.

MARE ISLAND, CAL.

68. This is the principal Marine Corps post on the Pacific coast, and if the present policy is carried out its importance will increase. The present barracks are old and insanitary and were damaged by the earthquake in 1906, and as the strength of the post, including the

recruit depot, is usually over 650 men, a large number are required to live in tents throughout the year—an unsatisfactory and expensive method of housing a command. The most pressing necessity, so far as public works, Marine Corps, in the United States are concerned, is considered to be the construction of adequate and proper buildings for this post.

PUGET SOUND, WASH.

69. By authority of act of Congress approved March 4, 1913, making appropriations for "One set bachelor quarters, for eight officers, \$35,000," this office prepared and submitted sketches of such building to the Bureau of Yards and Docks. The sum of \$7,000 was appropriated in act approved August 22, 1912, for the purchase of land on which to erect a rifle range, with buildings, etc., and steps are being taken to perfect the transfer of the land to the Government.

DEPOT OF SUPPLIES, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

70. The depot of supplies moved into the new building on August 28, 1912, which is a modern fireproof structure, affording more floor space than the building formerly occupied for this purpose. This depot is being fully outfitted in the way of equipment, etc., for 1,500 men for field service.

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII.

71. The new barracks building and officers' quarters at this station will be completed and the buildings turned over by the contractor on or about September 17, 1913. By act approved March 4, 1913, \$63,000 additional have been appropriated for Marine Corps buildings at this station.

GUAM.

72. The accommodations at this post are barely sufficient for the present command, and if its strength is increased additional barracks and quarters will become a pressing necessity.

W. P. BIDDLE.



NAVY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
OF THE UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR 1914



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1914

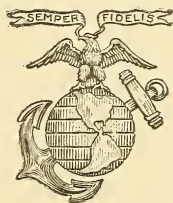
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT OF THE
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
Washington, October 2, 1914.

From: The Major General Commandant.

To: The Secretary of the Navy.

Subject: Annual report of the condition and service of the United States Marine Corps for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914.

Reference: (a) Official memorandum, Secretary of the Navy, August 3, 1914.

1. In compliance with the department's instructions contained in reference (a), the following report of the condition and service of the United States Marine Corps for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, is submitted.

2. During the period covered by this report officers of the adjutant and inspector's department have made the usual inspections, and the reports in connection therewith have shown satisfactory conditions as to the health, discipline, and efficiency of the corps. In this connection, however, the undersigned desires to state that in his opinion the long-continued service in the tropics occasioned by the frequent expeditions that have been sent out is bound to have an unfortunate effect on the health of the Marine Corps. At some of the posts the lack of adequate and sanitary barracks has caused adverse reports to be made, and the necessity for buildings to be used as drill halls and gymnasiums and for facilities to provide legitimate amusements within the garrisons for the enlisted men thereof has been the subject of numerous reports. These conditions are being improved so far as practicable from year to year, but the amount that can be used, with the regular appropriations, is of necessity limited. When such buildings are provided the tendency is for the men to remain within the limits of the garrison, but where the men are required to go into the near-by towns and cities for their amusements the result is usually unfortunate and causes over-indulgences of various kinds, frequently culminating in trials by court-martial or in desertion. In this connection the undersigned wishes to state that he considers it essential to the efficiency of the Marine Corps and for the information of headquarters that at least yearly inspections of all posts by officers of the adjutant and inspector's department be made. Such inspections not only bring to light but also remedy irregularities, cause commanding officers and organization commanders to use greater effort to bring their commands to a state of proficiency, and at the same time enable the commandant of the corps to take the requisite steps to bring the corps to a higher state of efficiency. Owing to the absence of a large part of the Marine Corps on expeditionary service, the undersigned has made no personal inspections, but upon the return of the

brigade now in Mexico to the United States it is deemed essential that he should inform himself, by personal inspection, of the needs of the various posts and organizations of the corps.

INCREASE IN CORPS.

3. In view of the varied and important character of the work performed during the past year by the Marine Corps in the way of expeditionary work, and especially that pertaining to Mexico, it has been necessary to practically deplete the barracks in this country, and it has also been almost impossible to keep the complements of ships up to the quota which has been established by the department. The requirements of the past year have fully and clearly demonstrated the absolute necessity for a very definite increase in both officers and enlisted men of the corps, not only properly to do the work which it is called upon to do, but also to maintain the high standard which the corps has previously attained and which the department requires it to maintain. The increases which are requested and which are tabulated herein are not based on imaginary or hypothetical contingencies or any desire to stimulate promotion or to create easier duty, but these increases are requested simply and solely because of the absolute necessity for them. The corps can not much longer remain efficient under the strain to which officers and men are now almost continuously subjected both at home and abroad, and it is feared that a continuance of the character of work which has been performed during the past year will result in physical degeneration, and such a condition is bound to result in decreased efficiency.

4. I have directed that the following increases in officers and men be incorporated in the estimates for the coming fiscal year:

Brigadier generals.....	2
Colonel.....	1
Lieutenant colonel.....	1
Majors.....	2
Captains.....	11
Captain, assistant quartermaster.....	1
Captain, assistant paymaster.....	1
First lieutenants.....	11
Second lieutenants.....	11
Paymaster's clerk.....	1
Sergeants major.....	3
Quartermaster sergeants.....	8
Quartermaster sergeants (pay department).....	10
First sergeants.....	9
Gunnery sergeants.....	16
Sergeants.....	62
Corporals.....	84
Drummers.....	4
Trumpeters.....	4
Privates.....	579
<hr/>	
Total:	
Officers.....	41
Clerk.....	1
Men.....	779
	<hr/>
	821

In addition to the foregoing, attention is invited to the fact that the department has frequently decided that the Marine Corps enlisted

personnel should be one-fifth of that of the Navy, and that on such a basis the Marine Corps is at present 379 men short of this quota. In addition to the number required to keep up our quota I have asked for 400 men, not only because I understand from an authoritative source that it is the intention of the department to request the Congress to increase the enlisted personnel of the Navy by the moderate number of 2,000 men but also because I believe that these 400 men are absolutely necessary to provide the corps with a sufficient number of men to relieve the heavy strain to which they are now subjected and to maintain the force at the high standard of efficiency which I consider necessary.

5. The officers mentioned in the above list and their grades are not in excess of, but as a matter of fact are below, the quota necessary to provide a proper number of officers for the contemplated enlisted strength of the Marine Corps. It can be shown by statistics that even if not a single enlisted man be added to the corps the number of officers herein asked for would, if allowed, not only furnish no more officers than are necessary to properly officer the present enlisted strength but would still be below the quota which has been allotted to the same number of men in the Army.

6. Particular attention is invited to the recommendation that the grade of brigadier general be created for the Marine Corps. Not only is the Marine Corps a division commanded by a major general, and as such entitled to brigadier generals, but, furthermore, the duty to which the corps has in recent years been assigned has clearly demonstrated the necessity for officers of this rank in order that officers of proper rank may be assigned to the duty of commanding brigades. In recent years several brigades of from 2,000 to 4,000 men have been organized and sent out of the country, and recently there has been a brigade of over 3,000 men serving in Mexico in the field with the Army. All of the brigades which have been organized have been commanded by colonels, while the officers commanding the regiments of said brigades have also had similar rank. It must be apparent that such a condition of affairs is not only unmilitary but also does not tend to the greatest efficiency, for such an officer in command of the brigade is bound to be dissatisfied when he is ordered to command a unit larger than that to which his rank entitles him because of the fact that he has increased responsibility and yet does not receive any of the emoluments which go with such a command; and at the same time the officers who command the regiments must feel dissatisfied in having as their commanding officer an officer of similar rank and in many cases their senior only by a few numbers. It is due to the strong esprit de corps that the efficiency of the corps has not suffered, but that consideration should not stand in the way of the corps getting the recognition to which its numbers and the duty to which it is assigned entitle it.

Butler

APPOINTMENT OF MARINE OFFICERS.

7. I can not too earnestly recommend that all vacancies which may now exist or may hereafter be created in the commissioned personnel of the Marine Corps be filled from graduates of the Naval Academy or from worthy noncommissioned officers of the Marine Corps. I unhesitatingly express the opinion that the best interests of the service would be served if the officers of the Marine Corps were

appointed from graduates of the Naval Academy, for not only would the corps then receive officers who are better educated technically than those now admitted but also much better qualified physically, as the four years at the Academy result in the survival of the fittest. Recently there have been altogether too many young officers of the corps who, soon after their entry, have developed physical defects which render them unfit for the service. This in my opinion would not have occurred had graduates of the Naval Academy been selected. If the Naval Academy is, as we believe it to be, the best institution of the kind for the training of officers, I think there can be no doubt but that it should supply the commissioned personnel of the Navy and Marine Corps so far as it is possible to do so.

8. If it should be decided to so appoint graduates of the Naval Academy to the Marine Corps I think it would be advisable to so change the curriculum at the end of the second or third year of the academic course that certain midshipmen would be designated for probable appointment to the Marine Corps, and that during the remainder of their course they be required to specialize along lines which would better prepare them for their duty in the Marine Corps. It is further believed that if the staff corps of the Navy are hereafter filled as far as possible from graduates of the Naval Academy, in order to secure contentment the same laws which may be enacted as to selection, promotion, etc., with regard to such staff appointments should also be made applicable to the Marine Corps.

9. If, however, appointments to the Marine Corps be not made from graduates of the Naval Academy as above advised and the vacancies now existing be filled from civil life or from the ranks, it is advised that no appointments be made until Congress has been asked to enact legislation providing for the grade of provisional or acting second lieutenant, to serve as such for two years, during which time it is necessary for them to attend the preparatory school for officers of the Marine Corps. On their successful completion of the course they should be commissioned according to their standing at the school, or, in case their work has not been satisfactory, their service should be terminated.

SEA PAY FOR OFFICERS AND MEN.

10. Owing to the peculiar status as to service of the Marine Corps, and to that alone, I ascribe the unfortunate situation as to pay in which the Marine Corps is placed. Congress, after mature deliberation and for reasons appearing to it to be fair, reasonable, and just, has provided certain increases in pay for officers and men of both the Army and the Navy under orders which render increased expenses obligatory, as, for instance, by the act of May 13, 1908 (35 Stat. L., 128), provision is made for an increase of 10 per cent in the pay of officers and men of the Navy serving on board vessels, and under the act of June 30, 1902 (32 Stat. L., 512), and by the act of May 11, 1910 (35 Stat. L., 110), provision is also made for increases of 10 per cent in the pay of officers and men of the Army serving beyond the limits of the States comprising the Union.

11. The peculiar status of the Marine Corps as a part of the naval service, and yet not a part of the Navy, was evidently overlooked in the act of May 13, 1908, referring to the Navy, and as a result officers and men of the Marine Corps serving on board vessels of the Navy

who are subjected to all of the inconveniences and extra expenses to which officers and men of the Navy are subjected are nevertheless the only persons so serving who do not receive the extra compensation now authorized by the act of May 13, 1908. There can be no question that from both an equitable and a legal standpoint the officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps serving on board ship should receive the extra compensation, and the department's favorable action thereon is desired, for I have no doubt that the Congress will see the justice of this claim and grant the increase requested, especially as a very small increase of appropriation is necessary, and because if granted the pay of the enlisted men of the Marine Corps at sea would still be from 10 to 15 per cent less than that of enlisted men of the Navy of similar grade.

NEW RATINGS AND PAY THEREOF.

12. Due to the activities of the last few years in work connected with advance base preparedness, the character of the work performed by the Marine Corps has very materially changed. In many particulars entirely novel conditions have confronted the corps, and while they have been most successfully met it has been accomplished by almost superhuman efforts on the part of the officers and enlisted men of the corps. It was no small problem for the officers and men to become trained in the multifarious technical duties which devolved upon the various elements of the fixed defense regiment of the advance base brigade. Highly technical knowledge, such as is possessed by specially trained enlisted men of the Army in the Artillery, Engineer, and Signal Corps, was absolutely necessary to successfully carry on this new work assigned to the Marine Corps. A large number of men have been educated and to-day are qualified to perform these highly technical duties, and this has been accomplished by extra study and work on their part, and yet they are receiving the same pay allowed enlisted men of the Marine Corps who are not doing this highly technical work. This condition is due to the fact that until recently the work to which the Marine Corps was assigned developed no real necessity for trained men in the special technical duties above referred to, and consequently there was no need of asking for legislation to establish special ratings for the men doing such work. As the men of the corps are now actually filling the positions and doing the technical work at a very materially reduced rate of pay from that received by enlisted men of the Army who serve in the Artillery, Engineer, and Signal Corps, and who are doing the same class of work, it is not difficult to conceive that the enlisted men of the corps feel that they are being discriminated against and that they are entitled to the same compensation as is given to men performing similar duty in the Army.

13. It is also not difficult to see that unless legislation is enacted by which enlisted men of the Marine Corps receive similar pay to that received by men in the Army performing the same character of work dissatisfaction will result, and, furthermore, upon the expiration of their present enlistments these men, who have been trained in this work by the Marine Corps, will fail to reenlist in the corps, but will enlist in the Army, where a higher rate of pay awaits them for performing this same duty.

14. I trust that both the law and the equity of the case will appeal to the department, and that it will look favorably upon my recom-

mendation, as embodied in the estimates, to the effect that enlisted men of the Marine Corps who perform special technical work should be placed upon the same pay basis as are men who perform similar work in the Army.

FIELD CLERKS.

15. The undersigned desires to renew the recommendation made in previous reports that the status of field clerks of the Quartermaster's Department be changed by the Congress, so as to place them on the same footing as to pay and allowances as paymasters' clerks of the Navy and clerks of the assistant paymasters of the Marine Corps. At present these clerks receive \$1,400 per annum and are stationed where their services can best be utilized for the efficiency of their department. Although civilians, they accompany expeditionary forces. For their own protection in time of war, and in order that they be under control of superior authority, it is considered that they should be given a military status and an appropriate uniform. Experience during the past year has demonstrated that the number authorized by law—four—is too small, and that a total of eight are required to perform the duties that should properly be assigned to them.

ENLISTED FORCE.

16. Gains and losses in the enlisted force during the year have been as follows:

Enlisted.....	2,701
Reenlisted from Marine Corps.....	854
Reenlisted from Army.....	327
Reenlisted from Navy.....	7
Joined from desertion.....	400
Prisoners restored.....	301
Total gain.....	4,590
Discharged.....	3,052
Died.....	46
Deserted (gross).....	1,091
Retired.....	15
Prisoners sentenced to dishonorable discharge.....	273
Total loss.....	4,477
Net gain.....	113

DISTRIBUTION OF FORCE.

17. Summary of distribution of officers and enlisted men June 30, 1914:

	Officers.	Enlisted men.
On shore duty:		
In the United States.....	1 105	2,483
Outside United States.....	184	5,460
On board ship:		
Receiving ships.....	1	154
Cruising vessels.....	51	1,791
Total in service.....	341	9,888
Allowed by law.....	346	9,921
Shortage.....	5	33

¹ Includes 20 second lieutenants under instruction at the marine officers' school.

18. During the period in question the marine brigade in the Philippines has been disbanded, the battalion has been withdrawn from Panama, and the strength of the commands at Honolulu and Peking has been reduced, while the strength of the command at Guam has been increased.

APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, DEATHS, ETC.

19. On February 25, 1914, the undersigned was appointed major general commandant, vice Maj. Gen. William P. Biddle, retired upon his own application. In addition to the above there has been 1 appointment of a first lieutenant to the grade of captain assistant quartermaster, 20 appointments to the grade of second lieutenant, 2 retirements, 1 resignation, 2 dismissals, 1 honorable discharge, 2 deaths on the active list, and 4 deaths on the retired list.

CAMPAIGN BADGES, GOOD-CONDUCT MEDALS, ETC.

20. Since the last report the following campaign badges and bars have been issued to officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps:

Twenty-one Civil War campaign badges, 16 Spanish campaign badges, 2 West Indies campaign badges, 10 China campaign badges, 13 Army of Cuban Pacification badges.

21. During the past year 614 good-conduct medals and 231 good-conduct medal bars have been issued to enlisted men of the Marine Corps.

22.

RECRUITING.

	Fiscal year ending June 30--	
	1913	1914
Total number enlisted.....	4,042	3,889
Decrease in enlistment of 3.7 per cent.		
Net desertions.....	913	856
Percentage of desertions to total borne on rolls.....	6.1	6
Decrease in percentage of desertions of 0.1 per cent.		
Apprehended and surrendered from desertion.....	262	400
Increase in apprehensions, etc., of 52.6 per cent.		
Dishonorable discharge, sentence general court-martial.....	177	185
Reenlisted from Marine Corps.....	723	854
Percentage reenlisting from Marine Corps.....	17.9	21.9
Total reenlistments (including those from Army).....	1,044	1,181
Percentage of reenlistments to total enlistments.....	25.8	30
Discharges by medical survey within 3 months from date of enlistment.....	21	20
Decrease in medical surveys of 5 per cent.		
Cost per recruit, including transportation.....	\$59.07	\$47.40
Cost per recruit, excluding transportation.....	\$38.07	\$28.57

23. During the past year the number of enlisted men employed in the recruiting service has been reduced from 203 to 120 and the number of recruiting stations from 126 to 101, effecting a saving in the items board and lodging and rentals of approximately \$4,300 per month. The cost per recruit has been reduced by approximately \$10.

24. In addition to keeping the Marine Corps enlisted to its legal authorized strength 625 men were enlisted for the Navy.

25. The reorganization of the recruiting service into three recruiting districts has resulted most favorably. During the past year this

office, in cooperation with the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and the medical examiners appointed by the Marine Corps, has continued collecting data in regard to the desirability of instituting some system of detecting the mentally unsound. While sufficient data have not as yet been collected to warrant the extension to the service at large of any system of examination to detect mental deficiency, yet the fact that men who are mentally deficient are usually attracted to military life and after entering the service are not amenable to discipline renders it of great importance to the service that some system of preventing the enlistment of men of this type be devised and adopted.

RECRUIT DEPOTS.

26. The recruit depots have now been in operation since November, 1911. The systematic instruction given to recruits has largely increased the efficiency of the personnel and eliminated in the early stages a large percentage of undesirables.

27. During the past year the course of instruction at the recruit depots at Norfolk and Mare Island has been carried out in accordance with the prescribed schedule, except that when expeditions have been organized it was necessary to include all recruits who had completed six weeks' service. Unfortunate as it is with the present number of men, whenever an emergency arises a reduction in the course can not be avoided. The regular course of instruction lasts 14 weeks, and all of this time is necessary to so train the recruit that he may be able to perform his duties in a fairly proficient manner upon leaving the depot. Since May 1, the course has been rearranged so that by the end of six weeks' service the recruit will have had the Army marksman's course in rifle firing and one week in camp for field maneuvers. This necessitates sending men to the range four weeks earlier than prescribed by the regular schedule and has resulted in a considerably smaller number of qualifications. This is unfortunate, as statistics show that the percentage of desertions among unqualified men is approximately three times as great as it is among men who have qualified as marksmen or higher. When the present emergency has ceased the regular schedule will be resumed.

28. During the fiscal year recruits have been under instruction as follows:

Norfolk.....	1,850
Mare Island.....	750

29. The closing of the recruit depot at Philadelphia and the concentration of all recruits on the Atlantic coast for training in the one depot at Norfolk has resulted in increased efficiency, but the desired results can not be obtained so long as the depot is hampered by the lack of proper equipment and accommodations.

30. The depot at Norfolk is situated on what is called the "Schmoele Tract," a part of the navy yard not now used for industrial purposes but which it is understood will be required in whole or in part in the future development of the yard or when an additional dry-dock is authorized at that station. The recruits are quartered in tents throughout the year, and while this is good training for service in the field, during the winter months it causes great discomfort among men who are not inured to hardships, with an attendant increase in the

number of desertions. There are no suitable buildings where indoor drills may be held in inclement weather, and the instruction has therefore been materially interfered with, particularly during the winter months, when the number of recruits is ordinarily at its maximum. Proper amusement rooms are not available and it has been extremely difficult to provide diversion for such a large number of men as must be assembled at a recruit depot. It has also been necessary for the recruits to be thrown more or less with the older men, and until their course of training is completed this is considered most undesirable, not only on account of the spread of contagious diseases to which recruits are extremely liable, but also on account of the training of the recruits. While a considerable number of buildings of a temporary nature have been erected from the current appropriations and the conditions materially improved during the past year, yet the depot at best is a makeshift and the desired results can not be obtained until proper and adequate buildings are provided.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

31. The Swedish system of physical training, which has been adopted for the naval service, has been used throughout the year. One officer with an experienced assistant has been engaged during this period in giving instructions in this system at the stations on the Pacific coast and at Honolulu and Guam. The use of the dynamometer to detect physical weaknesses in applicants for enlistment is now being tried out at the recruit depot at Norfolk, but the tests have not been in operation for a sufficient length of time to determine their value.

TARGET PRACTICE.

32. *Qualifications.*—The number of men in the Marine Corps who have qualified as marksmen or better has steadily increased, as shown by the following tables:

	October.				June 30, 1914.
	1910	1911	1912	1913	
Expert riflemen.....	309	435	446	663	596
Sharpshooters.....	878	1,665	2,067	2,863	2,749
Marksmen.....	723	784	634	811	757
All grades.....	1,910	2,884	3,147	4,307	4,102
Per cent of total enlisted strength qualified in the various grades.....	0.209	0.318	0.335	0.434	0.415

The apparent decrease from October, 1913, to June 30, 1914, is due to the fact that during the entire present target season a large percentage of the enlisted strength of the corps has been on expeditionary duty and consequently has been afforded no opportunity to engage in target practice.

33. *Ranges.*—The same situation exists as in former years regarding ranges. The Army authorities, upon request, have courteously placed the Fort Barry range at the disposal of the Marine Corps. The use of this range was also granted by the Army during the month

of October, 1913. Owing to the absence of the major portion of marines ordinarily attached to posts in the United States on expeditionary duty, the accommodations at the Marine Corps rifle range at Winthrop, Md., have proven ample for the needs of the corps during the present target season. In connection with the proposed abandonment of the rifle range at Winthrop it is recommended that this range be not abandoned until a new range has been purchased or a range already in existence has been secured for use by the Marine Corps.

34. *Competitions.*—The Atlantic Division and the Marine Corps competitions were successfully held at Winthrop, Md., on October 16–17, 1913. The former was won by Pvt. Carl H. Sampson with an excellent score of 899, while the latter was won by Sergt. Eugene L. Mullahy with a score of 894. The usual medals were awarded, one officer being awarded a bronze medal in the Atlantic Division competition for his standing. The course prescribed for departmental competitions in the Army was fired in both cases.

35. The Philippines Division competition was held on the range at Maquinaya, P. I., on January 13–14, 1914. This match was won by Corpl. Elmer E. Greenlaw with a score of 855. The usual medals were awarded, two officers being awarded silver medals for their standing. The course for departmental competitions in the Army was fired.

36. On October 16, 1913, the Elliott trophy was competed for by teams representing the various marine barracks on the Atlantic coast. This trophy was won by the team representing Winthrop with a creditable score of 2,732.

37. On September 29, 1914, the Bay State trophy was competed for by teams representing the naval prisons at Portsmouth, N. H., and Boston, Mass., and the marine barracks at Portsmouth, N. H., Boston, Mass., and New York, N. Y. The team representing the last-named post won the trophy with a score of 2,615.

38. *Rifle-team squad.*—A rifle-team squad was assembled at Winthrop, Md. This squad, consisting of approximately 20 men under command of First Lieut. Calvin B. Matthews, proceeded on August 21, 1914, to Sea Girt, N. J., to take part in the matches of the New York State Rifle Association, the New Jersey State Rifle Association, and the national divisional individual and team matches.

39. The work of the squad was most creditable in all the matches at Sea Girt. A team from the squad won first place in the following matches:

The Dryden match.

The New Jersey State two-men team match.

The team also won second place in the national divisional team match.

The following individual events were won by members of the squad:

The Hayes match (Sergt. Ollie M. Schriver).

The Palma individual match (Corpl. Noah G. Reeves).

The Roe match (Corpl. James F. Coppedge).

The Spencer match (Corpl. James F. Coppedge).

The Sea Girt championship (Corpl. James F. Coppedge).

The national divisional individual match (Pvt. Charles C. Terry).

40. *Miscellaneous.*—The open championship for North China was held at Tientsin, China, on April 13, 1914. This rifle match was won

for the fourth consecutive year by the marines. First Sergt. Fredrick Wahlstrom won the match, and Sergt. James J. O'Neil took second place.

SERVICE AFLOAT.

41. With the exception of the marine detachments for the *Texas* and *New York*, which were assembled for preliminary training at the marine barracks, Annapolis, Md., the policy of having men sent to that station for training preliminary to service with the Atlantic fleet has not been carried out, owing to the absence of all available men on advance base work or on expeditionary duty in Mexican waters.

42. Except on the Asiatic station, marine detachments have been withdrawn from the smaller ships, and in this connection attention is invited to the fact that these ships are usually stationed in those parts of the world where local troubles are most apt to occur, and where a marine detachment under an officer available for immediate landing might be most desirable. In view of this it is suggested for the consideration of the department that it might be well to adopt the policy of utilizing some of the medium-sized ships as well as light-draft gunboats for this duty and of placing on board large marine detachments, varying in size from a company to a small battalion, supplementing such organizations by the regular complement of the engineer force and by a sufficient number of the other naval branches, to care for the ships in case it became necessary to land the marine detachment. It is suggested for the consideration of the department that if a sufficient number of marines had been available to enable this policy to have been carried out during the last year, it would have relieved a considerable number of battleships from this duty and would have enabled them to have carried on their training preparatory to war in a more satisfactory manner. It is believed that the officers and men of the Marine Corps can be trained to carry on most of the duties of the ship, and to this end the recommendation submitted last year is renewed, that junior marine officers serving afloat be assigned duty as watch officers, in addition to their duties in connection with the detachments.

43. It is of the utmost advantage to the naval service to have at its disposal a corps of officers and men who are trained equally well for service on board ships of the Navy or on shore in landing operations. In order that as many as possible of the officers and men of the Marine Corps be kept in close touch with the naval service and with service on board ship it is intended to reduce the tour of duty afloat for the Marine Corps to 2 years for officers and to not less than 18 months nor more than 2 years for men, a small proportion only of the men to be relieved at any one time, so that the greater part of the detachments afloat will always be composed of well-trained men who are thoroughly familiar with the ships to which attached.

44. Attention is also invited to the fact that it has been impossible to provide marine detachments for ships of the Atlantic and of the Pacific reserve fleets, and as these ships are kept in reserve to enable them to be placed in full commission at short notice the lack of officers and men for such detachments is a serious disadvantage to the Marine Corps.

ADVANCE BASE.

45. In addition to its ordinary and usual duties and certain expeditionary work the Marine Corps has during the past year been employed on at least two very important duties—the advance base work at Culebra and the landing at and the assisting in the seizure of Vera Cruz. Owing to the novel character of the work connected with the advance base, as well as its important and far-reaching effect upon the entire naval service, it is considered well worthy of special comment.

46. The officers and men engaged in this work during the last winter were for a comparatively short time stationed at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa., where at first they were instructed so as to educate both officers and enlisted men in the theory of their new duties, and subsequently elaborate practical exercises were held, both in the navy yard and on the Delaware River, in all of the various duties which were to be performed by the fixed defense regiment.

47. In January, 1914, a brigade commanded by Col. George Barnett, United States Marine Corps, and consisting of two regiments of about 59 officers and 1,700 enlisted men, was dispatched on the *Hancock* and the *Prairie*, with directions to establish an advance base on the Island of Culebra, Porto Rico. The program of the maneuvers, as outlined by the commander in chief of the Atlantic Fleet, had for its purpose the demonstration of the ability of the officers and men of the corps to put into practice what had been taught them at the Advance Base School. An examination of the report made by the commander in chief shows that the program of exercises was extended in character and the work of great value to officers and men. Taking into consideration the fact that this was the first expedition of this character conducted by the Navy and Marine Corps, the work done was of a most satisfactory nature, and on its completion called forth very strong commendation from the commander in chief of the fleet in a report to the department, to which I take much pleasure in inviting especial attention.

48. I believe that advance base work is the most important duty for which marines can be trained, not only because of the possible necessity which may arise for actually seizing and holding an advance base, but also because the training obtained in preparing for this duty is of inestimable value to the corps in the ordinary expeditionary duty which it is so often called upon to perform. In fact it has been learned that to the character of the training resulting from advance base work there is due much of the successful work which the Marine Corps brigade now serving in Vera Cruz has performed.

49. The maneuvers in Culebra last winter demonstrated beyond peradventure that in order to do successful work of this character a yearly appropriation is necessary in order that the proper material may be procured, and, after being procured, to keep it up to date and in proper condition. A modest appropriation only will be necessary for this purpose, and, when made, should be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy on the joint recommendation of the chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and the major general commandant of the Marine Corps.

50. In connection with this reference to advance base it may be proper to state that an impression seems to prevail that advance base work is purely a Marine Corps matter. This is an error, as there can be no doubt but that advance base work is essentially a naval matter in which the entire service is most deeply interested, and while the execution of the work is placed in the hands of the Marine Corps it is nevertheless necessary for successful results that it be given earnest cooperation by and coordination with the various branches of the naval service. It is hoped that every facility will be provided the corps for the continuing of this work, and if so, steps should be taken not only to perfect the outfit but also to devote as much time as possible to the training of the men in this work.

TRANSPORTS.

51. The General Board has recommended that a brigade organization be maintained in the Marine Corps; that next spring there be even more extensive advance base work than that of last year; and that a brigade of at least 2,500 men with all the necessary guns, mines, and equipment be sent to the West Indies. At the present time there are available but two transports, the *Prairie* and the *Hancock*, and these, even when crowded would be unable to carry the number of men above mentioned. It will be found necessary to send a large number of men as passengers on battleships, and this should be avoided, for it is not only detrimental to the interior economy of the battleship but it is also coupled with severe discomfort and inconvenience for the men. It is a matter of record that the Marine Corps has in past years on expeditionary duty undergone privations to which it ought not to be subjected if it can possibly be avoided. Whilst prior conditions have been somewhat alleviated by placing the *Hancock* in commission, yet this has not marked a sufficient improvement. When the transport appropriated for by Congress which is now in course of construction is completed a relief will be granted if the present transports are still available, but it is deemed proper, however, to invite attention to the fact that both the *Prairie* and the *Hancock* are fast nearing the end, and it is therefore deemed proper in view of the fact that it takes some time to design and build a transport, to most urgently recommend that the Congress be asked to provide for an additional transport similar to the one now being constructed.

EXPEDITIONS.

52. Whilst during the past year the number of times the Marine Corps has been ordered to perform expeditionary duty has not been as many as in previous years, yet the scope of work performed by it has been much larger.

53. In January, 1914, 1 officer and 56 men, comprising the marine detachment of the U. S. S. *South Carolina*, were landed at Port au Prince, Hayti, for the protection of the American legation and American interests.

54. A regiment consisting of 30 officers and 845 enlisted men, which was subsequently known as the Second Regiment of the Advance Base Brigade, sailed on the *Prairie*, from Philadelphia Novem-

ber 27, 1913, for Pensacola, Fla., where it went into barracks. They were reembarked on the *Prairie* January 3, 1914, and sailed for Culebra, Porto Rico, and took part in the advance base work there. This regiment returned to Pensacola February 15, 1914, when 14 officers and 329 men were reembarked on the *Prairie* for Vera Cruz. Sixteen officers and 516 men embarked on the *Mississippi* for Vera Cruz on April 21, 1914.

55. A regiment consisting of 24 officers and 810 enlisted men, subsequently known as the First Regiment of the Advance Base Brigade, sailed from Philadelphia on the *Hancock* on January 3, 1914, for Culebra. On the completion of the maneuvers it sailed to Pensacola, Fla., thence to New Orleans, Tampico, and arrived at Vera Cruz, Mexico, April 22, 1914.

56. The Third Regiment, consisting of 33 officers and 861 enlisted men, embarked on the *Morro Castle* at Philadelphia April 23, 1914, and proceeded direct to Vera Cruz, where it arrived on April 30, 1914.

57. The Fourth Regiment was assembled at Bremerton, Wash., and at Mare Island, Cal., embarking on the *South Dakota*, the *West Virginia*, and the *Jupiter* on April 18, 24, and 22, respectively. Of this regiment there were about 24 officers and 900 enlisted men on the *South Dakota* and *Jupiter* and 4 officers and 200 enlisted men on the *West Virginia*. This regiment remained on these vessels on the west coast of Mexico until July 3, 1914, when it went into camp at North Island, San Diego, Cal., where it now is.

58. The above expeditionary work required a large number of men, and as a result the barracks in this country have been practically depleted and the men who have been left have been compelled to perform the most arduous duty. The above expeditionary work shows conclusively the absolute necessity for an increase of officers and men of the corps.

59. Subsequent to the end of the fiscal year and prior to the submitting of this report an additional regiment, the fifth, consisting of 27 officers and 702 enlisted men, was organized under command of Col. Charles A. Doyen for duty in Santo Domingan waters.

VERA CRUZ.

60. When conditions in Mexico became grave, and action on the part of our Government was contemplated, arrangements were made by these headquarters for the mobilization of as many officers and men of the corps as it was possible to detail. The Second Regiment, consisting of 14 officers and 329 men, was embarked on the *Prairie* at Pensacola March 5, and arrived at Vera Cruz on March 9; of said regiment 16 officers and 516 men remained at Pensacola until April 21, when they were embarked on the *Mississippi*, and arrived at Vera Cruz on April 24. The First Regiment, consisting of 24 officers and 810 men, left New Orleans for Tampico on the *Hancock* April 15, 1914, and remained there until they were landed at Vera Cruz on April 22, 1914. The Third Regiment, consisting of 33 officers and 861 enlisted men, was assembled at Philadelphia and embarked on the *Morro Castle*, a chartered vessel, sailing April 23, 1914, and landing at Vera Cruz April 30, 1914. In addition to the foregoing regiments, which were mobilized from those serving ashore in this country, a

battalion consisting of 20 officers and 632 enlisted men was assembled from the ships of the North Atlantic Fleet and landed at Vera Cruz on April 21, 1914. From the 21st day of April until the present time the marines have been ashore at Vera Cruz, at first serving under the Navy and latterly under the Army.

61. I deem it my duty, and at the same time a great pleasure, to bring to the department's attention the high character of work performed by the marines in Mexico. The satisfactory work which has been done is not only shown by the official reports which have reached these headquarters, but also from information which shows it to be practically the unanimous opinion of the officers of the Army and the Navy who were present in Mexico that the marines had lived up to their high standard of efficiency. Attention is invited to the report of Rear Admiral F. F. Fletcher, United States Navy, on this subject, and also to the number of letters of commendation addressed by the department to officers and men of the corps for their distinguished services in Mexico.

AVIATION.

62. Two officers and 6 men are now on aviation duty in connection with the Navy aeronautic section, and as soon as additional officers and men are available they will be detailed to this duty in accordance with the policy of the department.

MARINE OFFICERS' SCHOOL.

63. The regular course of instruction at the marine officers' school, Norfolk, has been somewhat interfered with owing to the necessity of assigning officers under instruction to duty with the First Brigade. The temporary quarters provided for the student officers at Norfolk are not at all appropriate for the use to which put, and the lack of drill hall, gymnasium facilities, and proper class and lecture rooms is a serious handicap to the efficiency of the school.

64. The policy of sending the student officers to camp for a period of approximately six weeks for practical exercises in military topography, field engineering, and minor tactics has been of great advantage and without question increased the efficiency of all officers completing the course.

INSTRUCTION OF OFFICERS AT SERVICE SCHOOLS.

65. Through the courtesy of the War Department, during the past fiscal year two officers have been under instruction at the Army War College, one at the Army Staff College, and one at the Army School of the Line. Owing to the organization of expeditionary forces it became necessary to relieve all but one of these officers a short time prior to the completion of their respective courses, and on account of the absence of a large proportion of officers on special duty it has been impossible to detail more than one officer for such instruction this year.

66. It is deeply regretted that the exigencies of the service have prevented the detail of an adequate number of officers to duty at the Naval War College.

MATERIAL.

67. The amount of the "Maintenance" appropriation provided by the Congress for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914—\$3,000,000—was found inadequate owing to the mobilization and transfer of an exceptionally large number of men to expeditionary duty in Mexico, and it became necessary to obtain a deficiency appropriation of \$253,661.80 to provide for deficiencies under the subheads "Clothing," "Military stores," and "Contingent."

PUBLIC WORKS.

68. There were no appropriations made under the head of "Public works, Marine Corps," during the period covered by this report. More or less extensive improvements and additions at many of the stations of the corps are considered necessary for the proper instruction and handling of the enlisted personnel. The lack of proper drill halls, gymnasiums, and amusement and instruction rooms at practically all posts of the corps seriously interferes with the proper training of the men, and owing to the lack of adequate facilities for legitimate entertainment the men are led to go outside of the posts for their amusement.

BARRACKS, QUARTERS—NEW CONSTRUCTION.

69. The new construction program which has been requested in this year's estimates covers only a small part of that which is absolutely essential and does not contain many structures which are deemed necessary, not only because of efficiency and economy but also to protect the health of the men. At Mare Island and Norfolk, where the recruit depots are maintained, a large proportion of the command live in tents, well known to be the most expensive means of housing troops. Due to the limitation (\$200,000) for public works for the Marine Corps, it was impossible to include estimates for barracks at either of these yards. Out of the current appropriation it has been attempted to build at Mare Island small buildings in which to house some of the men, but at the best these are only make-shifts. It is not only desirable, but absolutely necessary, that suitable barracks for housing the men be built, especially at Mare Island, where the present barracks are old, dilapidated, unsightly, and have actually been condemned as unfit for occupancy. It requires but very little imagination to see the deleterious effects upon recruits who, arriving at their first station, find so little provided for their bodily comforts, as many of them are housed by the Government under much worse conditions than they had prior to their entering the service. I feel it my duty to lay these facts before the department as strongly and as earnestly as I can, and to plead for new buildings, not only because they are so necessary but also because the records show that the sums appropriated by the Congress for new construction have been insignificant, and when compared with those appropriated for the Army, on a pro rata basis, they are practically nil.

70. If the amount (\$200,000) which the Marine Corps was authorized to incorporate in the estimates for public works for the coming year be permitted to remain, I advise instead of dividing this amount into smaller amounts that the entire sum be designated for the build-

ing of a barracks either at Mare Island or Norfolk. It is hoped that, in addition to the above \$200,000, the \$400,000 which was appropriated by Congress for the construction of barracks and quarters on the Isthmus of Panama, and which requires no new estimate, will be requested to be reappropriated, and if so reappropriated that this entire sum be utilized for the building of a barracks at Mare Island. If my above recommendation meets with the department's approval and both sums are allowed the Marine Corps, it is further advised that the \$200,000 in the present estimates be devoted to barracks at Norfolk and the \$400,000 to barracks at Mare Island.

MARINE BARRACKS, BOSTON.

71. I bring to the department's special attention the fact that, even though the \$148,000 recently appropriated for marine barracks at Boston has been reappropriated for other purposes, the exigencies of the service demand my inviting attention to the urgent need for barracks and officers' quarters at Boston. Unless the post be abandoned something must be done, as the present barracks and quarters are almost uninhabitable and certainly unsightly and insanitary. Reb.

NEW ORLEANS.

72. Should the department decide to establish a regimental base at the naval station at New Orleans, I deem it proper to call attention to the fact that the only buildings suitable for housing men, and which will not be required for strictly navy-yard purposes, will need considerable overhauling and refitting before they will be at all suitable for occupancy as barracks. They will not only require a general overhauling and refitting but will require the introduction of toilet facilities, heat, light, etc., as well as kitchen and mess-hall facilities. There are only four sets of quarters which would be at all available for marine officers, and this would result in a large portion of the officers attached to the regiment being compelled to live outside the station and a remote distance therefrom, and this does not conduce to efficiency. If the post be established, provision should be made to quarter at the station all the officers attached to the regiment.

PHILADELPHIA DEPOT OF SUPPLIES.

73. During the past year the Marine Corps depot of supplies at Philadelphia has maintained its high standard of efficiency. Additional construction is urgently required and has been requested for this depot, and this meets with my approval, but the item was not directed to be included in the estimates, as the \$200,000 limitation prevented its being incorporated. Ba

74. The results already obtained in the way of decreased cost of manufacture and increased quality of the output in every line makes me very sure that no better investment could be made by the Government than by increasing this plant so that it could furnish practically everything that is needed for the Marine Corps and a great deal that is needed for the Navy. The depot is now run to its full capacity and the annex is necessary to establish a plant requisite to the needs of the service.

PEARL HARBOR.

Sept 1914
75. The officers' quarters, for which \$18,000 was appropriated in the act of March 4, 1913, are under construction, the contract date of completion being November 24, 1914. The department has suspended temporarily the erection of the post exchange and gymnasium and quartermaster's storehouse for which the Congress appropriated in the same act \$20,000 and \$25,000, respectively. In view of the isolation of this post it is considered most desirable that the above-mentioned buildings which have been appropriated for be completed. This is particularly desirable in view of the probability that this post will, in the near future, be increased to a strength of one battalion.

GUAM.

4
76. Owing to the increase in the size of the command at Guam a large proportion of the command, both officers and men, are living under canvas, in hired quarters, or in improvised barracks. In view of the isolation of this post and the consequent entire dependence of the officers and men upon themselves for their recreation, and also of the necessity that officers and men be properly housed, it is believed that as soon as the location of the naval station and the various barracks has been determined representations should be made looking toward the erection of adequate and suitable buildings for the command.

GEORGE BARNETT.



NAVY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
OF THE UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR 1915



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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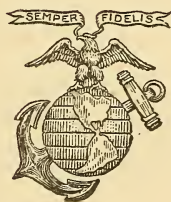
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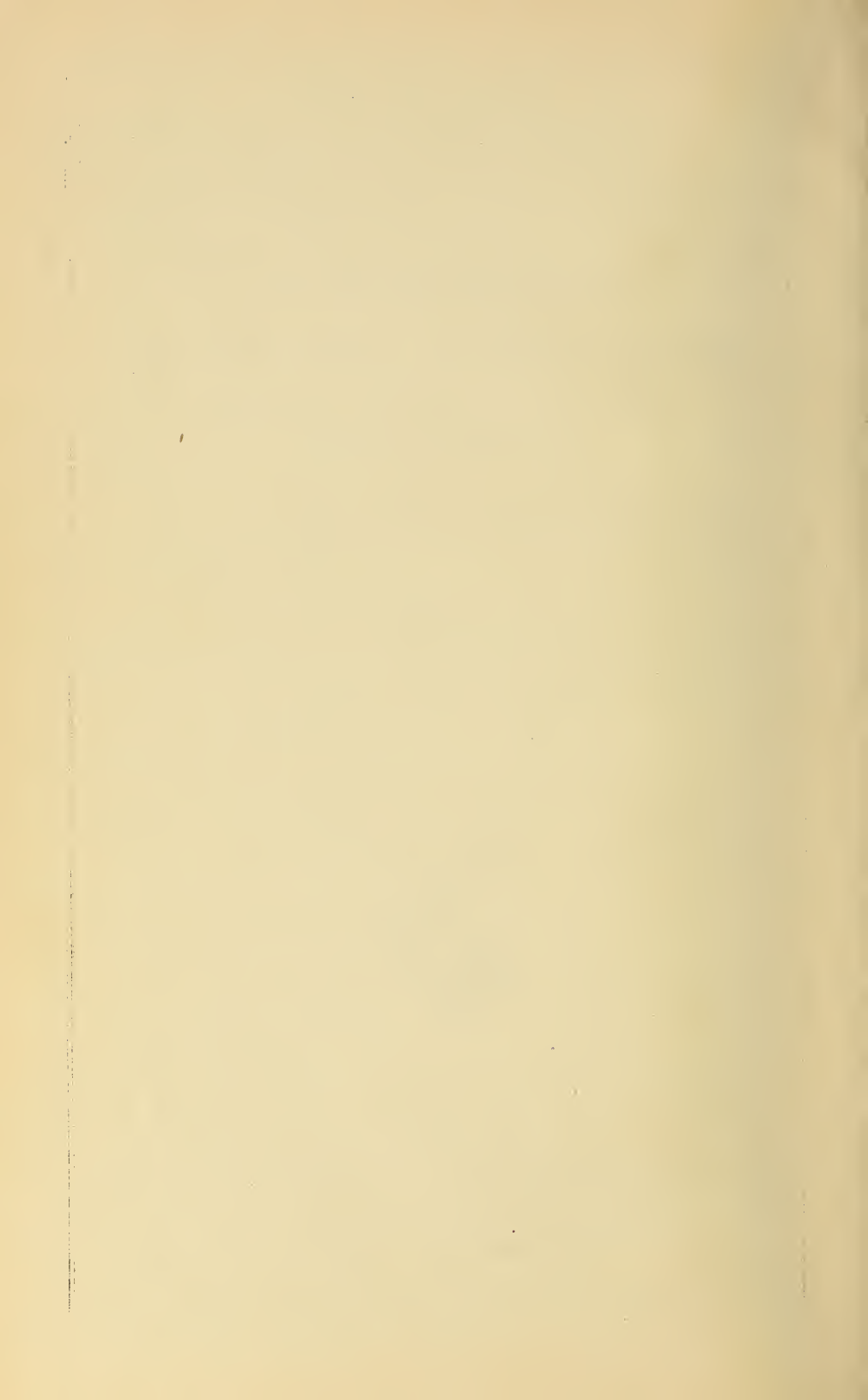
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
Washington, October 6, 1915.

From: Major General Commandant.

To: Secretary of the Navy.

Subject: Annual report of the condition and service of the United States Marine Corps.

INCREASE OF PERSONNEL.

ENLISTED MEN.

1. The paramount need of the Marine Corps is an increase of officers and men. As at present constituted it is inadequate to perform its varied and important duties.

2. The duties of the Marine Corps may be classified as follows:

(a) As marine detachments—

(1) On board vessels of the active fleet.

(2) On board capital ships now in reserve, in ordinary, or under construction, whenever it becomes necessary for them to join the active fleet.

(b) As the technical companies constituting the fixed defense force assigned the duty of seizing, fortifying, and defending advance bases.

(c) As a mobile force consisting of infantry and artillery—

(1) For duty in supporting the fixed defense forces in the defense of advance bases.

(2) For expeditionary duty, such as that performed at Vera Cruz in 1914, and now being performed in Haiti.

(d) As military garrisons to provide guards for navy yards, naval magazines, and other plants vital to the upkeep and efficiency of the fleet, both in peace and in war.

(e) As recruits under training.

(f) As detachments for duty at target ranges, recruit depots, United States legations abroad, naval prisons, naval hospitals; as details for the recruiting service and for administrative purposes.

3. The marine detachments of the active fleet are habitually kept at their full strength. There are, however, no men who would be available for duty on board the capital ships now in reserve, in ordinary, or under construction, in case an emergency should arise requiring those vessels to join the active fleet. Approximately 1,400 additional men are needed for this duty.

4. The companies of the fixed defense force are required to perfect themselves in their specialties. The most important of these spe-

cialties are the handling of submarine mines; the landing, transporting, mounting, and manning heavy batteries, together with the establishment and management of the fire-control system connected therewith; the manning of aero-defense batteries; the handling and control of portable searchlights; and the many other branches of technical work which have been referred to in the reports which from time to time have been made to the department.

It is manifest that the companies assigned the difficult task of preparing themselves to carry out these special duties should always be kept up to their full strength; that a sufficient number of such companies should be assigned to these duties, and, being so assigned, that they should not be diverted from their highly technical training in order to provide mobile forces for expeditionary duty, detachments for navy yards, or for other purposes. Approximately 500 additional men are needed to furnish sufficient companies for the fixed defense force and to bring all such companies up to the required strength.

5. Each year since the war with Spain the Marine Corps has been called on to furnish mobile forces for expeditionary duty. These forces have varied in size from a battalion to a brigade of over 3,000 men. It has frequently been found necessary in order to provide the number of men called for by the exigencies of the then situation to temporarily withdraw marines from the fleet, to divert the fixed defense companies from their technical training, and to transfer practically the entire detachments and garrisons stationed as guards at navy yards, naval magazines, etc. Indisputably this is not only a poor makeshift, but furthermore its continuance will interfere materially with the efficiency of the fleet and of advance base work, and will endanger the safety of the navy yards, naval magazines, etc.

Mobile forces of adequate size should be stationed on each coast, in order that the frequent calls for troops for emergency expeditionary duty can be met without depleting or diverting to this duty the organizations required elsewhere for the safety and efficiency of the naval service.

Based on the experience gained from many expeditions, I am strongly of the opinion that a mobile force of not less than 3,500 men should be maintained on this coast, and one of not less than 1,200 men on the west coast. These forces would also be in readiness at all times for service as a part of the garrison of advance bases, acting as supports to the fixed defense force by protecting the base from hostile landing forces. This duty is of very great importance, as fortified harbors are very vulnerable to this form of attack. Approximately 3,000 additional men are needed for this purpose.

6. Under date of February 9, 1914, the department fixed the complements of the marine detachments assigned to duty as garrisons for guarding the navy yards, naval magazines, etc. Since that time, and especially during the last few months, the most urgent recommendations for the increase of these detachments have been made by the commandants of stations, inspectors of ordnance, and other officers responsible for the safety of these plants. Small increases in a few detachments have been authorized by the department, but owing to the lack of officers and men sufficient increases could not

be made, and all of these detachments are still of inadequate strength. It is unquestionably in line with the soundest military policy to provide adequate military guards for these important plants, as, in the event of war, their destruction or serious injury would so cripple the fleet as to jeopardize the success of its operations. Approximately 1,500 additional men are needed for this purpose.

7. About 10 per cent of the enlisted personnel of the Marine Corps is habitually undergoing training at the recruit depots. When the Marine Corps is increased, the percentage of recruits under training remaining the same, their number will, of course, be correspondingly increased. If the increase outlined in the preceding paragraphs be authorized, approximately 600 additional recruits will be under training.

8. There is now available just about a sufficient number of men to perform the miscellaneous duties enumerated in paragraph 2 (f) of this report. It is evident that if an increase of the corps be authorized, the number of men required for administration, for the recruiting service, for recruit depots, and for target ranges, would be correspondingly increased. The number now engaged is about 4 per cent of the total strength, and if the Marine Corps be increased as outlined in the preceding paragraph, approximately 200 additional men will be required for this purpose.

9. For the reasons above quoted, it is apparent that, in order to properly perform the duties which have been assigned to it, the Marine Corps should be increased by approximately 7,200 men. In this connection the department's attention is invited to the fact that in the event of an emergency the Marine Corps has no means of expansion other than by enlisting and training recruits. Eight months is believed to be the minimum time required in which to fit men for their duties, if they be assigned to new organizations; and, ordinarily, before the expiration of this period, the questions at issue will have been decided, and the emergency will have terminated.

10. Even though the needs of the service are as above outlined, yet as the department, upon the recommendation of the General Board, has adopted as its general policy the maintenance of the Marine Corps at one-fifth of the Navy, my recommendation for an increase will be based upon this policy.

Therefore, having been informed that the department will recommend an increase of 7,500 enlisted men for the Navy, I advise, and earnestly urge that the department approve my recommendation that the Marine Corps be increased by 1,500 enlisted men at this session of Congress. In this connection the department's attention is invited to the fact that, if these increases be authorized, the enlisted personnel of the Marine Corps will still be 380 men less than 20 per cent of the enlisted strength of the Navy.

11. In addition to the absolute necessity, as described in this report, for an increase of the personnel of the corps, I believe it to be pertinent to invite the department's attention to the fact that the Marine Corps has demonstrated conclusively, in the maneuvers at Culebra, in the military operations at Vera Cruz, and in Haiti, as well as in other important expeditionary duty, that it is a remarkably efficient organization, and that its officers and men possess extraordinary versatility; for, in addition to being trained as infantrymen, its officers and men are required to man a part of the battery on board ves-

sels of the fleet; to act as Field Artillery, and as Signal, Engineer, and Coast Artillery troops; to handle boats, to mount guns of large caliber on shore, etc. The field of usefulness of the Marine Corps is, therefore, a very broad one; and for this reason, as well as on account of its efficiency, and the economy of its administration, I believe that it would, in addition to the necessity, be most advantageous to the Government to enlarge it by the addition of the officers and men recommended in paragraph 15 of this report.

OFFICERS.

12. An increase of officers necessarily accompanies an increase of enlisted men, 40 officers for each 1,000 men being the minimum number that should be authorized. As at present constituted, the Marine Corps is underofficered, especially in the higher grades. In this connection the department's attention is invited to the recommendation contained in my last annual report as to an increase of officers.

13. During the last five years brigades of marines have been engaged in foreign expeditionary duty on six different occasions. Each of these brigades has been commanded by a colonel, for the reason that there are no brigadier generals in the Marine Corps. In military organizations other than the Marine Corps brigades are commanded by brigadier generals, and justice, as well as efficiency, demands that the grade of brigadier general be authorized by Congress. If two brigadier generals be appointed, the increased expense to the Government would be inappreciable, while the increased efficiency resulting therefrom would be incalculable.

14. There are insufficient officers of field rank in the Marine Corps, and, due to this fact, I have been compelled to assign captains to commands to which field officers should properly be assigned. For instance, the recruit depot at Port Royal, S. C., where about 1,000 men will be stationed, will be commanded by a captain, notwithstanding the fact that the great importance of the duty calls for the detail of at least two field officers—one in command of the post and one as executive officer of the depot. For these reasons I have embodied in my recommendation for additional officers a slightly increased proportion of field officers.

INCREASE RECOMMENDED.

15. The following recommendation as to the increase in numbers in each grade of officers and enlisted men is submitted:

OFFICERS.

Brigadier generals	2
Colonels	2
Lieutenant colonels	2
Majors	9
Majors, assistant quartermaster	2
Major, assistant paymaster	1
Captain, assistant quartermaster	1
Captain, assistant paymaster	1
Captains	15
First lieutenants	13
Second lieutenants	12

Total ----- 60

WARRANT OFFICERS.

Warrant officers -----	15
Quartermaster's clerks (field) -----	6
Paymaster's clerks -----	2
Total -----	23

ENLISTED MEN.

Sergeants major -----	2
Quartermaster sergeants (5 Pay Department) -----	20
First sergeants -----	40
Gunnery sergeants -----	55
Sergeants -----	105
Corporals -----	210
Drummers -----	15
Trumpeters -----	15
Privates -----	1,038
Total -----	1,500

SECOND LIEUTENANTS.

16. Relief for second lieutenants from the present stagnation in promotion is imperatively needed, as nearly one-third have served in that grade over 6 years. At the present rate of promotion, more than 15 years' service in the grade of second lieutenant is what may be expected. Officers of the Navy are promoted to the next higher grades upon the completion of 3 years' commissioned service, and second lieutenants should receive the same promotion. If this provision is not made, our young officers, feeling the discrimination, will become discouraged and disheartened, and their usefulness to the service greatly impaired. The department's attention is further invited to the fact that if the action herein recommended is adopted, 3 years' service in the grade of second lieutenant will be compulsory, and a repetition of the very undesirable practice of promoting second lieutenants after a few months, or no service, which has sometimes occurred when large increases have been made, will be discontinued.

DETAIL SYSTEM FOR STAFF DEPARTMENTS.

17. The detail system in the staff departments of the Army has demonstrated its superiority over the former system of permanent appointments. The present Army system provides that all vacancies occurring in the staff departments shall be filled by promoting the permanent staff officers of the respective departments as formerly required by law, and that the vacancies thus created at the foot of the lists of such departments shall be filled by the detail of line officers of corresponding grades for periods of four years. The arguments in favor of this system are, in my opinion, unanswerable, and its adoption by the Marine Corps is therefore recommended.

WARRANT OFFICERS.

18. There are no grades of warrant officers in the Marine Corps to which our noncommissioned officers may be promoted. These grades would, if established, not only offer a just reward for faith-

ful and efficient service, but would also provide a class of officers of great value to the service. Very recently the Navy pay clerks have been made warrant officers, and the same necessity exists for warranting Marine Corps paymaster's clerks, and the quartermaster's clerks assigned to duty in the field. Similarly, the assistants to the adjutants at Marine Corps brigade and regimental headquarters, as well as at the posts, and the experts in the various technical branches of advance base work, should be warranted. This policy is in line with that of the British Royal Marines, in which branch of the service warrant grades were created many years ago.

The titles suggested for these grades are warrant officers, quartermaster's clerks (field), and paymaster's clerks.

The statute creating these warrant grades should contain the following provisions: (1) Sergeants major, first, and gunnery sergeants only should be eligible for assignment to the position of warrant officers; (2) quartermaster sergeants only should be eligible for warrant as quartermaster's clerks (field), except that, in order to provide for the present field clerks, four of the original appointments may be made from field clerks now in the Quartermaster's Department; (3) the paymaster's clerks now in the service, and quartermaster sergeants (pay department) only should be eligible for warrant as paymaster's clerks; (4) Marine Corps warrant officers should be on the same basis as to rank, pay, and allowances as are boatswains in the Navy; (5) quartermaster's clerks (field) and paymaster's clerks should be on the same basis as are pay clerks of the Navy, and (6) the quartermaster's clerks (field) should be transferred from the civil to the Military Establishment of the Marine Corps.

NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

19. Heretofore the Marine Corps has not been allowed a sufficient number of noncommissioned officers to perform its great variety of important duties. I have, therefore, in the recommendation contained in paragraph 15 of this report, endeavored to rectify this condition to some extent. The department's attention is invited to the fact that there are only six grades of noncommissioned officers in the Marine Corps, while in the Army and Navy there are a great many more grades than the number above mentioned. I deem it undesirable, as stated in my last annual report, to create additional grades of noncommissioned officers, but recommend instead an increased proportion of sergeants major, quartermaster sergeants, first sergeants, gunnery sergeants, sergeants, and corporals, in order to provide men of suitable rank to perform the numerous important duties assigned to the Marine Corps.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.

20. Medals of honor are awarded to enlisted men of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps for heroic conduct. In addition, enlisted men of the Army may be awarded certificates of merit for gallant or meritorious service of a degree not sufficiently distinguished to warrant the award of medals of honor. These certificates of merit carry with them an increase of pay of \$2 per month. The object of awarding these certificates is to encourage men to do more than their

duty, and to reward men who seek opportunities to distinguish themselves. It is, therefore, recommended that a proviso be incorporated in the naval appropriation bill permitting the award of certificates of merit to enlisted men of the Marine Corps by the Secretary of the Navy, under conditions similar to those now in force in the Army.

MARINE CORPS RESERVE.

21. The Marine Corps has no reserves. During the last session of Congress a naval reserve, consisting of men who have seen service in the Navy, was created. The adoption of a similar proviso for the Marine Corps is recommended.

MARINE BAND.

22. I deem it proper to bring to the department's attention the present status as to pay of the Marine Band, which has maintained and is still maintaining its high reputation under great disadvantages. The Marine Band is practically the President's band, and is used for all official functions both at the White House and elsewhere, and therefore only men of the highest standard of excellence can be recruited for this service. The present organization of the band was effected some time since, and the pay and allowances were fixed at a time when the cost of living was not nearly so high as it is now, and when conditions were entirely different. At the time when the present pay table was adopted the band was much in demand for private entertainments, and the members were allowed to accept liberal remuneration for the service, which materially added to their pay. This condition, however, has entirely changed, and the band is now denied competition with local organizations, due to protests made by the labor union. The question, therefore, of a reorganization of the band, and especially a modification of the pay table, is, in my opinion, highly essential, in order to maintain the band at such a state of efficiency as will not impair its usefulness. This matter is now receiving my attention, and at the proper time there will be submitted for your approval, and submission to the Congress, a bill providing for the reorganization of the band.

MEMBERSHIP GENERAL BOARD AND ADVISORY COUNCIL.

23. Under date of June 2, 1915, the Major General Commandant was made ex officio a member of the General Board, and reported for this duty on June 5, 1915. This detail is believed to be in the line of progress, and will add very materially to closer cooperation between the Navy and Marine Corps and contribute greatly to the efficiency of the service.

24. Under date of June 28, 1915, the Secretary of the Navy abolished the office of aids and merged them into an advisory council, of which the undersigned was, on the same date, appointed a member.

PERSONNEL BOARD.

25. By direction of the department, a board consisting of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy and two officers of the Marine Corps as members has been organized, with instructions to consider and rec-

commend legislation for the personnel of the Marine Corps. The necessity for Marine Corps personnel legislation becomes apparent upon an investigation of the age and length of service of the officers of the corps. At the present time the average age of captains of the Marine Corps is approximately 38 years, and that of first lieutenants 31 years. During the next 15 years there will be, in the line of the Marine Corps, only 7 retirements on account of age. Allowing, in addition to these vacancies, 2 per cent per annum for casualties, the 17 senior captains only can expect promotion to the grade of major, the 36 senior first lieutenants to the grade of captain, and the 54 senior second lieutenants to the grade of first lieutenant during that time. In 1930, therefore, provided there be no increase of officers, or other legislative relief, in the meantime, the average age of captains will be 51 years, that of first lieutenants 44 years, and 20 of the second lieutenants now on the list will still be in that grade. Efficiency demands that company officers should be comparatively young men with great physical and mental vigor. They must not only march with their men and endure the same hardships, but they must command and lead them into battle. Manifestly, men of the age that the captains and first lieutenants will be in 1930 can not possess these qualifications, and some system of promotion and elimination must be adopted which will enable officers to reach the grade of field officer at an earlier period in their service.

If the Marine Corps be increased as recommended in this report, conditions as to promotion will be temporarily somewhat improved, and the necessity for personnel legislation will, therefore, for the time being, be less acute than it now is. A solution of this problem, however, is essential to efficiency, and must eventually be the subject of congressional action.

EXPEDITIONS.

26. At the date of my last report the First Brigade, United States Marine Corps, formed a part of the army of occupation of Vera Cruz, Mexico; the Fifth Regiment was serving in Santo Domingan waters on board the U. S. S. *Hancock*, and the Fourth Regiment was in camp on North Island, San Diego, Cal.

27. On November 23, 1914, the First Brigade embarked on board the transports *City of Memphis*, *Denver*, and *San Marcos*, and proceeded to the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa., arriving there on December 3, 1914. Shortly after its arrival it was distributed as follows:

Brigade headquarters, Third (Signal) Company, First Regiment, and six companies of the Second Regiment, at the Navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Artillery Battalion, at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

One company of the Second Regiment at the United States naval aeronautic station, Pensacola, Fla.

One company at the naval station, New Orleans, La.

One company on board the *Washington* for expeditionary duty.

28. On December 23, 1914, the *Hancock*, with the Fifth Regiment on board, returned to Philadelphia, and the officers and men were, as far as practicable, returned to their former stations.

29. On December 10, 1914, the Fourth Regiment was assigned to exposition duty, the First Battalion, consisting of three companies,

being stationed at the San Francisco Exposition, and regimental headquarters and the Second Battalion, consisting of four companies, at the San Diego Exposition. This regiment has, however, at all times been held in readiness for expeditionary duty, and on two occasions a part of it has been assigned to such duty.

30. On June 17, 1915, three companies (300 men) of the Second Battalion, Fourth Regiment, embarked on the *Colorado* at San Diego and sailed for Guaymas, Mexico. Upon the arrival of the expeditionary force at Guaymas, conditions there having become so much improved, it was not landed, but after about six weeks' service in Mexican waters the *Colorado* returned to San Diego, where on August 10 the battalion disembarked for temporary duty on shore and has continued in that status since that time.

31. On July 28, owing to disturbances in Haiti, the commander of the Cruiser Squadron landed a force of marines and sailors at Port au Prince and Cape Haitien. The force of marines consisted of the Twelfth Company and the marine detachment of the *Washington*. This was reinforced the next day by the Twenty-fourth Company from Guantanamo, Cuba, a total of about 240 marines.

32. On July 30 the department directed that about 500 additional marines be sent to Port au Prince via the *Connecticut*. In less than 24 hours five companies of the Second Regiment (528 enlisted men) embarked with a full outfit of stores on board the *Connecticut*, and that vessel sailed for Port au Prince. Immediately upon its arrival at its destination the marines were landed.

33. The commander of the Cruiser Squadron having again requested an additional force of marines, Headquarters of the First Brigade, the Signal Company, and seven companies of the First Regiment embarked on August 10 on board the *Tennessee* and proceeded to Haiti, arriving there on the 15th. The expeditionary force, together with its stores, was immediately landed, and since that time the brigade, under the command of Col. Littleton W. T. Waller, has been engaged in the restoration and maintenance of good order and the preservation of peace in Haiti. Its service has been conspicuously efficient.

34. Additional marines having been further requested, the Artillery Battalion, consisting of 3 companies of an enlisted strength of 318 men, armed with twelve 3-inch landing guns and two 4.7-inch heavy field guns, sailed on board the *Tennessee* on August 26, 1915, for Port au Prince. The battalion landed and joined the First Brigade on August 31, 1915.

35. The force in Haiti includes the technical companies which have been engaged in advance base training in Philadelphia. Owing to this interruption in the training of the fixed defense force, its efficiency as an advance base organization will be materially interfered with. As stated in paragraph 5 of this report, the Marine Corps should be enlarged sufficiently to provide mobile forces for service of this nature, without diverting the technical companies from their advance base training.

APPOINTMENT OF MARINE OFFICERS.

36. In accordance with the recommendation contained in my annual report of 1914 the vacancies existing in the Marine Corps at the close of the academic year at the Naval Academy were filled

by the appointment of graduates of the academy. I again urge that, as far as it is practicable to do so, vacancies in the Marine Corps be filled in the same manner in the future.

37. I appreciate, however, that should the increase recommended in this report be authorized it would be difficult and probably impracticable to fill all the vacancies thus created by the appointment of graduates of the Naval Academy; and it is therefore recommended that any vacancies still remaining after the appointment of available graduates and worthy noncommissioned officers of the Marine Corps be filled by the appointment of graduates of high-class military and technical schools, as is now done in the Army.

ADVANCE BASE.

38. Upon the return of the First Brigade from Vera Cruz, Mexico, the fixed defense force of the Advance Base Brigade was enlarged and reorganized. The Signal Company was placed immediately under the direction of the brigade commander, as would normally be the case in active service, and the battalion organization of the Artillery companies was retained, the Artillery companies being permanently separated from the mobile and fixed defense regiments.

39. To the First Regiment were assigned a fire-control detachment and eight companies, viz, four 5-inch gun companies, one mine company, one searchlight company, one engineer company, and one aero-defense company. Its armament was correspondingly strengthened. In consequence of these changes the regiment has become a much more powerful organization, and better able to efficiently carry out its mission.

40. Heretofore the advance-base force has prosecuted its work under great difficulties, and its success is due to the fact that the Bureau of Ordinance has allotted to it, for the purchase of material, a small part of its appropriations, and has loaned it guns, mines, etc., which were no longer required for use by naval vessels. It is self-evident that no military plant can be kept up to date, or be made efficient by such methods, and it is therefore recommended that the sum of \$150,000 be included in this year's departmental estimates for the purchase of advance-base material; and that this amount, if appropriated, be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, on the joint recommendation of the Bureau of Ordnance and the Major General Commandant of the Marine Corps.

TRANSPORTS.

41. The new transport authorized for the use of the Marine Corps is now under construction at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa., and when completed will afford considerable relief from present conditions. Since the return of the *Hancock* from Caribbean waters, in December last, it has been continuously under repairs at the navy yard, Philadelphia, and no transports have been available for expeditionary or advance-base forces, rendering it necessary on different occasions to use the *Connecticut*, *Tennessee*, and *Colorado* for transporting marines. It is a matter of record that the *Prairie* is unfitted for use as a transport, and also that the *Hancock* has nearly reached

a point where deterioration, due to long service, will be so great as to make it too expensive to keep her in repair. The recommendation contained in my annual report of 1914, for the construction of an additional transport, is therefore earnestly renewed, and it is learned with pleasure that an additional transport will be included in the General Board's recommendation on "New construction."

MARINE OFFICERS' SCHOOL.

42. The regular course of instruction at the Marine Officers' School has continued since last December. Thirteen officers completed the course on May 1, 1 in July, and 8 on October 1.

43. From July 15 to August 31 the student officers were in camp at Gettysburg, where they received practical instruction in military topography, field engineering, minor tactics, etc. The class was joined at Gettysburg by the 10 graduates of the Naval Academy who had recently been assigned to the Marine Corps. The instruction of these recently appointed officers has been continued by one month's practical instruction at the target range, Winthrop, Md., and they are now taking a three months' course at the Marine Officers' School at Norfolk.

ADVANCE BASE, FIELD ARTILLERY, AND OTHER SCHOOLS.

44. In January last the Advance Base School at Philadelphia was reopened, and a course of practical and theoretical instruction has been given to the officers and men attached to that post. One of the features of this year's course has been the delivery of lectures on subjects pertaining to advance-base work by officers of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. The course of instruction has been of great value to all participating therein, and as a result many improvements have been made in the advance-base equipment, particularly in regard to handling and mounting the heavy guns.

45. In January a Field Artillery school was also established at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., for practical and theoretical instruction in field artillery. Field artillery has become very important to the Marine Corps, both for advance-base work and for expeditionary duty, and it is the intention of this office to afford a large number of officers an opportunity to become skilled in the use of this powerful arm.

46. In January a machine-gun company was transferred to the navy yard, Pensacola, Fla., with a view to establishing there a machine-gun school for the instruction of officers and men. The present European war had demonstrated the enormous military value of this arm, and it is deemed essential that all officers of the Marine Corps should be trained to use it with facility. The commanding officer of this company, as a result of his experience, has made a great many valuable recommendations for improving the organization, handling, and equipment of machine-gun companies. Owing to the shortage of officers in the Marine Corps, it has not been practicable to assign any additional officers to duty with the machine-gun company for purposes of instruction, but it is hoped that during the ensuing year, if the Marine Corps be increased, it will be practicable to do so.

INSTRUCTION OF OFFICERS AT SERVICE SCHOOLS.

47. Two captains have been detailed to the Army School of the Line, Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and one field officer to the Army War College, to take the courses which began at those institutions on September 1, 1915. Two field officers are also taking the long course at the Naval War College, Newport, R. I.

48. The higher education of its officers in the military art being of the greatest value to a military organization, this office will endeavor to make arrangements with the War Department to permit the assignment of at least two field officers of the Marine Corps each year to the Army War College, and several officers to the Army Schools of Musketry and Artillery Fire at Fort Sill, Okla.

AVIATION.

49. Four officers and 12 enlisted men are now on aviation duty with the naval aeronautic section.

Owing to the shortage of officers and enlisted men, it has not yet been practicable to detail for this duty the full number authorized by Congress in the last naval appropriation bill. Should the corps be increased, however, as recommended, the complement of officers and men engaged in aviation can be quickly brought up to the maximum number authorized by law.

CAMP AND MANEUVER GROUNDS.

50. In order that Infantry and Artillery organizations may receive the absolutely essential instruction in the duties they will be called upon to perform in the field, it is necessary that maneuver grounds be provided for their use. All of the Marine Corps posts, being situated in or near large cities, afford no such facilities, and in consequence the training of officers and men in Infantry work proceeds under great difficulties. If the maneuver grounds above mentioned be provided, a camp of instruction could be held each year, and a valuable course of training given in field exercises, combat firing, maneuvers, target practice with artillery, small arms, and machine guns. This camp should be located near deep water, so that the organizations may be transported thereto by naval vessels, thereby avoiding the large expense involved in moving men and supplies by rail. Furthermore, a location such as the above would enable the advance base organizations to carry on their practical work under very favorable conditions.

SAN DIEGO.

51. Acting under instructions from the department, the undersigned, on his recent visit to the Pacific coast, looked into the question of a site in the vicinity of San Diego, Cal., for quartering the expeditionary force which it is contemplated to establish on that coast. A site which contains all the necessary features can be found in the harbor of San Diego, where the necessary land can be purchased at a cost of about \$250,000. The question of the construction of barracks and other public works upon said site, and the cost

thereof, are matters which will depend entirely upon the strength of the command which the department contemplates establishing at said post. In this connection attention is invited to the report made under date of August 26, 1915, by the undersigned to the department, on this subject, upon his return from the Pacific coast.

INSPECTIONS.

52. During the period covered by this report the undersigned and the officers of the Adjutant and Inspector's Department have made the usual annual inspections of most of the posts and organizations of the Marine Corps. Special reports of these inspections have been submitted when made, and the defects noted have been remedied so far as funds available have permitted.

53. The reports of these inspections indicate a very gratifying condition of military efficiency, especially at the larger posts where there are sufficient officers and men assembled in permanent organizations to afford opportunity for a thorough course of military instruction.

The undersigned has not as yet inspected Pensacola, Key West, and New Orleans. These inspections have been delayed, due to improvements being made at New Orleans. These posts will be inspected at a future date when the improvements at New Orleans shall have been completed.

RECRUIT DEPOTS.

54. The system of recruit depots has been continued in operation, and in December last the course of instruction of recruits was restored to its original length of 14 weeks. Every effort will be made in the future to avoid any abridgment of the course, as it is deemed of the utmost importance that men entering the service should be thoroughly grounded in the rudiments of the profession of arms before being distributed to the service.

55. On account of the great reduction in the number of naval prisoners, the necessity for a disciplinary barracks at Port Royal, S. C., no longer exists, and the station will be turned over to the Marine Corps for use as a recruit depot in place of Norfolk, Va. The depot will be removed to Port Royal in the near future. This change of location will, it is believed, result in greatly increased efficiency, as the training of the recruits will not be interfered with by the necessity of guarding a large industrial establishment, and the entire attention of the officers and noncommissioned officers may, therefore, be concentrated on one subject only—the making of trained soldiers.

TRANSPORTATION.

56. One of the outstanding features of the European war has been the utilization, on a vast scale, of motor transportation for moving men, supplies, and guns. This adaptation of the motor vehicle to military purposes will, I believe, be of the greatest value to the Marine Corps. Heretofore, owing to the necessity of preserving mobility, and on account of the lack of facilities on naval vessels for transporting animals, Marine Corps expeditionary and advance base forces

have been compelled to rely entirely upon such land transportation as was obtainable in the theater of operations. This system was extremely unsatisfactory, as the available animals were always untrained and otherwise unsuitable for military transportation purposes. On the other hand, the motor truck can be easily transported, and exhaustive tests have shown it to be well adapted for use on any road or across any country which can be traversed by wagons or guns. The present expedition to Haiti has been partially equipped with motor trucks, and the adoption by the Marine Corps of this form of transportation will, it is expected, result from the experience to be gained there.

GUAM.

57. The marine battalion on duty in Guam has, during the past year, been engaged in extremely arduous and important work, in connection with the placing of that island in a state of defense. In addition to the purely military work referred to above, the battalion has constructed roads and bridges, and built temporary quarters for its own use. Numerous urgent recommendations for an increase in the battalion have been received from the commanding officer, the inspecting officer, and the governor of Guam. These recommendations are based upon what amounts to military necessity, and are concurred in by this office, but owing to the important and exacting nature of the other duties assigned to the Marine Corps it will not be practicable to add to the force in Guam, unless the number of officers and enlisted men in the Marine Corps be increased as recommended in this report.

The officers and men in Guam at present are occupying temporary huts erected by the labor of the troops, and should, at the earliest date practicable, be supplied with permanent quarters. This can not be done, however, as stated in a report from the governor of Guam, until the question of land titles is settled, and the location of the quarters for the various detachments, into which the battalion would necessarily be divided, are decided upon and selected. It is urged that steps be taken to have the decision in regard to the above-mentioned matter expedited. In the meantime the officers and men must be provided with shelter, and estimates for the erection of temporary structures have been submitted.

EXPOSITION DUTY.

58. Upon the urgent request of the officials of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, Cal., and the Panama-California Exposition, San Diego, Cal., exposition guards were established at both places. The Fourth Regiment, which had been assembled on the Pacific coast for expeditionary duty, was utilized for this purpose. Regimental headquarters and the second battalion were stationed at San Diego, and the first battalion at San Francisco. These organizations have been held in readiness throughout the year for expeditionary duty, so that their being stationed at the expositions in no way interfered with their being available for active service. Both battalions have performed their duties in a most satisfactory manner, and their military appearance and bearing have

been highly commended by the exposition authorities and by a large number of prominent officials who have attended these expositions. Their being stationed at these expositions has been of great educational value, and has enabled a great many people to become informed in regard to the Marine Corps who previously had little or no knowledge on the subject.

During my tour of inspection on the Pacific coast, Marine Corps day was set apart and observed at the San Francisco Exposition. The following prizes and medals have been awarded to the Marine Corps: Manufacturers, general exhibit of uniforms, gold medal; transportation, arms, and equipment, medal of honor; Marine Corps camp, grand prize.

RIFLE PRACTICE.

QUALIFICATIONS.

59. The number of men in the Marine Corps who have qualified as marksmen or better has steadily increased, as shown by the following table:

	October 31—				June 30—	
	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Expert riflemen.....	309	435	446	663	596	883
Sharpshooters.....	878	1,165	2,067	2,863	2,749	2,536
Marksmen.....	723	784	634	811	757	1,471
All grades.....	1,910	2,884	3,147	4,307	4,102	4,900
Per cent of total enlisted strength qualified.....	0.209	0.318	0.335	0.434	0.415	0.493

The increase in the number of marksmen and expert riflemen and the attendant decrease in the number of sharpshooters is due to the fact that the prescribed course of firing for qualification was radically changed for the present target season.

While every possible effort has been made to enable all enlisted men of the Marine Corps to fire for qualification, the limited facilities of the corps in the matter of available ranges has been a very detrimental factor.

RANGES.

60. The Marine Corps range at Winthrop, Md., was opened on April 5, and is being used by the posts at Indian Head, Washington, and Norfolk, and by some of the marine detachments from ships. Arrangements were made for the use of the Bay State rifle range at Wakefield Mass., under a lease, and a camp of rifle instruction was in operation there from June 15 until September 1. The smaller ranges at Pensacola, Annapolis, and Las Animas were utilized as much as possible, while it is expected that the commands at Port Royal and Charleston will have an opportunity to conduct target practice on the range at the former post. Practically all marine detachments on board ships of the Atlantic Fleet were enabled to fire either at Guantanamo Bay or at one of the ranges in the United

States, and at the present time there remains only a part of the First Brigade, which has had no opportunity to hold target practice. However, the Artillery Battalion, which is a part of the brigade, succeeded in finishing the prescribed course. The remainder of the brigade, owing to its transfer to expeditionary duty, has to date been unable to hold rifle practice. Should this expeditionary duty terminate before the present season ends it is hoped that arrangements can be made whereby the regular course of firing can be held.

On the west coast the new range at Mare Island and the range at San Diego have furnished ample accommodations to all troops, with the exception of those stationed at the navy yard, Puget Sound.

It has been impracticable to secure the use of the range at Fort Shafter for the use of the marine detachment stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the men there have had no opportunity to fire during the present season. All other permanent posts outside the continental limits of the United States have had ample facilities to conduct practice.

Additional ranges are needed at New Orleans, Bremerton, and Pearl Harbor. Efforts will be made to have ranges constructed at these places in the near future, and when this work is completed every enlisted man in the Marine Corps will have an opportunity to engage in target practice each year.

COMPETITIONS.

61. A Marine Corps competition was held at San Diego, Cal., June 1-4. This was won by Gunnery Sergt. Andrew Hagen with the excellent score of 654; the conditions under which the match was fired were those prescribed for departmental competitions in the Army. In addition, on June 7 an interpost competition was held on the above range under the conditions prescribed for ships' teams in the Navy. This event was won by the team representing the Marine Barracks, Mare Island, Cal., with a score of 3,574.

RIFLE TEAM.

62. A rifle-team squad was assembled at Winthrop, Md., under command of First Lieut. Calvin B. Matthews. After the weeding-out process the squad was transferred to Wakefield, Mass., on August 7, in preparation for the matches of the New England Military Rifle Association.

The work of the rifle team in these matches was excellent, as shown by the following:

Essex County match, won by Gunnery Sergt. Claude H. Clyde.

McLane trophy, won by Pvt. Joseph Pullin.

Quinby match, won by Corpl. James F. Coppedge.

Clapp match, Second Lieut. George W. Hamilton, second.

Berwick match, won by Capt. Harold F. Wirgman.

Abbot match, won by Corpl. James F. Coppedge.

Winchester match, won by Gunnery Sergts. Joseph Jackson and Roscoe Arnett.

Vaughan match, won by Sergt. George Jones.

Hayden All-America Team match, won by Marine Corps.

Pfaff match, won by a team representing the Marine Corps.

63. The team squad proceeded to Sea Girt, N. J., on September 4, to take part in the rifle matches held at that place. Here again the work was most excellent. The following results indicate the showing of the team:

Gould match, won by Pvt. Walter Randle.

Remington Arms match, won by Second Lieut. William H. Rupertus.

Swiss match, won by Gunnery Sergt. Andrew Hagen.

All comers experts match, won by Sergt. Eugene L. Mullahy.

Rogers match, won by Corpl. Ralph Henshaw.

Nevada trophy, won by Sergt. Harry Austin.

Sea Girt championship, won by Second Lieut. H. L. Smith.

Cruikshank team trophy, Marine Corps second.

Seventy-first Regiment team match, won by Marine Corps.

Spencer Silhouette team match, won by Marine Corps.

Dryden team match, won by Marine Corps.

McAlpin team match, Marine Corps second.

Hayes match, Gunnery Sergt. Roscoe Arnett second.

Two-man team match, won by Second Lieut. H. L. Smith and Capt. Harold F. Wirgman.

Meany match, won by Corpl. Edward B. Piper.

Wingate match, Gunnery Sergt. Ollie M. Schriver, fourth.

Sadler team match, won by Marine Corps.

In addition to the above a large majority of places were secured by members of the team squad both at Wakefield and Sea Girt.

64. Following the conclusion of the matches at the latter place the rifle team proceeded to Jacksonville, Fla., there to take part in the national matches. The following results of matches preceding the national matches have been reported from Jacksonville:

Individual rifle match, won by Sergt. Archie Farquharson.

Roe long-range match, Pvt. William T. Wayble, third.

Spencer match, won by Corpl. William H. Ford.

Libbey match, Second Lieut. William H. Rupertus, fourth.

Running deer match, won by First Lieut. Calvin B. Matthews.

ENLISTED FORCE.

65. Gains and losses in the enlisted force during the year have been as follows:

Enlisted	2, 781
Reenlisted from Marine Corps.....	820
Reenlisted from Army.....	457
Reenlisted from Navy.....	10
Joined from desertion.....	205
Prisoners restored	73
Total gain.....	4, 346
Discharged	3, 169
Died	36
Deserted	876
Retired	22
Prisoners sentenced to dishonorable discharge.....	165
Total loss.....	4, 268
Net gain	78

DISTRIBUTION OF FORCE.

*66. Summary of distribution of officers and enlisted men June 30, 1915:

	Officers.	Enlisted men.
On shore duty:		
In the United States	228	6,568
Outside the United States	44	1,214
On board ship:		
Prison and receiving ships	1	216
Cruising vessels	71	1,970
Total in service June 30, 1915	344	9,968
Allowed by law	345	9,921

The following shows the distribution of officers and enlisted men on September 30, 1915:

	Officers.	Enlisted men.
On shore duty:		
In the United States	152	4,666
Outside the United States	124	2,982
On board ship:		
Prison and receiving ships	1	148
Cruising vessels	67	2,183
Total in service Sept. 30, 1915	344	9,979
Allowed by law	345	9,921

APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, DEATHS, ETC.

67. During the year 2 appointments from civil life, and 10 from the Naval Academy, to the grade of second lieutenant, have been made, and there have been 1 retirement, 1 resignation, 1 dismissal, and 6 deaths on the active list, and 3 deaths on the retired list.

Maj. Gen. Charles Heywood (retired), who served as Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1891 to 1903, died on February 26, 1915, in this city. The following order was promulgated to the service at the time of Gen. Heywood's death:

It is with deep regret that the Major General Commandant announces to the officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps the death of Maj. Gen. Charles Heywood, which occurred in this city at 1 p. m. on the 26th ultimo.

Gen. Heywood entered the Marine Corps in 1858, and from that time to the time of his retirement his service was of a most distinguished character. He served with marked distinction during the Civil War, for which he received successively brevet commissions as major and lieutenant colonel. In 1891, he was appointed Commandant of the Marine Corps, and served in that office until the time of his retirement, October 3, 1903. During his incumbency as Commandant the corps which he commanded, due to his personal efforts increased not only in number, but markedly so in efficiency.

As a mark of respect to his memory it is directed that, for two weeks after receipt of this order, all officers of the Marine Corps wear the usual badge of mourning on their sword hilts.

CAMPAIGN BADGES.

68. Since the last report the following campaign badges and bars have been issued to officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps: Three West Indian campaign medals, 2 Civil War campaign badges,

23 Spanish campaign badges, 27 China campaign badges, 60 Philippines campaign badges, 875 Nicaraguan campaign badges.

GOOD-CONDUCT MEDALS.

69. During the past year 762 good-conduct medals and 161 good-conduct medal bars have been awarded to enlisted men of the corps.

70.

RECRUITING.

	Fiscal year ending June 30—		
	1913	1914	1915
Total number enlisted.....	4,042	3,889	4,068
Increase in enlistments of 4.6 per cent.			
Net desertions.....	913	856	786
Percentage of desertions to total borne on rolls.....	6.1	6.0	5.4
Decrease in desertions of 0.6 per cent.			
Apprehended and surrendered from desertion.....	262	400	205
Decrease in apprehension, etc., of 48.7 per cent.			
Dishonorable discharge, sentence of general court-martial.....	177	185	192
Reenlisted from Marine Corps.....	723	854	820
Percentage reenlisting from Marine Corps.....	17.9	21.9	20.2
Total reenlistments (including those from Army).....	1,044	1,181	1,277
Percentage of reenlistments to total enlistments.....	25.8	30.0	31.4
Discharges by medical survey within 3 months from date of enlistment.....	21	20	23
Increase in medical surveys of 1.5 per cent.			
Cost per recruit, including transportation.....	\$59.07	\$47.40	\$39.93
Cost per recruit, excluding transportation.....	\$38.07	\$28.57	\$26.51

There are now 3 recruiting divisions, 20 districts, and 132 stations. The recruiting service has been very economically and efficiently administered, and there has been no difficulty in keeping the Marine Corps recruited to its full strength; in fact, the difficulty has been to prevent the corps from getting above its authorized strength.

The cost, including transportation, was decreased during the year by \$7.47 per recruit.

The number of reenlisted men, including those from the Army, has been steadily increasing from year to year, and is now 31.4 per cent of the total enlistments.

The above table also indicates that the percentage of desertions is steadily decreasing.

EQUIPMENT AND MILITARY STORES.

71. In accordance with instructions issued by the department, the Marine Corps is now in process of being supplied with the Army infantry equipment. It is expected that by the end of October a sufficient amount of this equipment will be in readiness for the whole corps.

Owing to the limited capacity of the blanket-roll attachment, it has been found necessary to supply each man with an individual clothing bag, fitted so that he can carry it with him with facility whenever he is transferred or when sent on expeditionary duty.

The adoption of the infantry pack standardizes the equipment throughout the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. This is most desirable, and enables any department to draw on the others for supplies in case of emergency.

BARRACKS AND QUARTERS—NEW CONSTRUCTION.

72. The need of additional officers' quarters, particularly at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa., is very great. At this navy yard is stationed the largest part of the First Brigade, United States Marine Corps. Military efficiency, as well as considerations of economy, demands that officers should live in Government quarters near their men, and the sum necessary for the construction of such quarters for 10 officers at Philadelphia has been included in the estimates for this year. A similar argument applies to the navy yard at Mare Island, Cal., and estimates for quarters there for five officers have also been made. The new barracks to be constructed at Mare Island does not provide space for a suitable post exchange and gymnasium. It is considered very important at all military posts that as many facilities as practicable for the comfort and amusement of the men should be provided within the post itself, so that they will spend their time off duty in barracks. The old barracks can be made suitable for occupancy by remodeling it, and an appropriation for this purpose is therefore recommended. At the marine barracks at Norfolk, Va., the high-pressure water system from the navy yard has not been extended to the barracks, and it is necessary that this should be done for purposes of protection from fire.

PHILADELPHIA DEPOT OF SUPPLIES.

73. There is urgent necessity for a further addition to the depot of supplies in Philadelphia, Pa., not only for use as storage space for clothing of enlisted men and miscellaneous military supplies but for manufacturing purposes. The sum of \$175,000 has been recommended in the annual estimates since 1912, for the purchase of ground adjoining the present site and the erection thereon of another addition to the depot. The space afforded by the present building is inadequate satisfactorily to meet the needs of the service.

74. The depot is essentially a manufacturing and distributing establishment, and all posts and stations of the corps, including the marine detachments aboard ships, are supplied from this depot. The needs of the service are constantly increasing, and in the interest of economy all possible available space in the present building has been utilized for manufacturing purposes, consisting of 4 departments, namely: Clothing, equipment, machine, and woodworking, all of which are very much congested; so much so, in fact, that it has become necessary, in order to carry on the work of the depot expeditiously and efficiently, to rent 43,413 square feet of floor space in the vicinity of the depot for storage purposes, for which an annual rental of \$13,906.20 is paid, representing a 3 per cent investment of more than \$450,000, or about the cost of the present building and land. As this additional rented storage space (the only available) is situated several blocks away from the depot, considerable extra handling of stores is necessary, with a corresponding loss of time and efficiency, not to mention the undesirability of storing Government property in privately owned buildings in common with other parties. The expense of the necessary extra handling is a point to be considered. The proposed additional ground and building to com-

plete the establishment would admit of a railroad siding to the loading platform, which would greatly facilitate the handling of supplies delivered to and shipped from the depot and would result in a considerable saving, and it would then be unnecessary to rent any space to carry on the work of the depot.

NEW BARRACKS AT NORFOLK AND MARE ISLAND.

75. In view of the provisions of the act approved March 3, 1915, reappropriating the \$400,000 authorized for the erection of barracks, quarters, and other buildings on the Isthmus of Panama in the act of March 4, 1913, steps have already been taken by the Bureau of Yards and Docks and this office to prepare the necessary plans and specifications for the construction of new barracks buildings at Norfolk and Mare Island, and it is expected that advertisements for proposals for their construction will be issued in the near future.

76. Both of these posts are well adapted for still further development, and in selecting sites for the new barracks buildings this end has been kept in view.

GEORGE BARNETT.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
OF THE UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR 1916



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1916

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
Washington, October 5, 1916.

From: The Major General Commandant.

To: The Secretary of the Navy.

Subject: Annual report of the condition and service of the United States Marine Corps.

MARINE CORPS MANEUVER GROUNDS AND BARRACKS.

1. I commenced my annual report of last year with the following statement: "The paramount need of the Marine Corps is an increase of officers and men. As at present constituted it is inadequate to perform its varied and important duties."

Congress incorporated in the naval appropriation bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, provisos increasing the corps by 255 officers and 5,034 enlisted men.

No provision was made, however, for barracks in which to house these additional men, or for maneuver fields on which to train them. The proposed development of navy yards will require all available space therein for the industrial establishments, leaving no room for the enlargement of Marine Corps plants except at Philadelphia, which has been made the permanent station of the advance base fixed defense force, and at Mare Island, where the Marine Corps west coast recruit training station is located. The establishment, therefore, of a large Marine Corps post on each coast, as training stations for its expeditionary forces, has now become the paramount need of the Marine Corps.

2. Prior to the War with Spain the duties of the Marine Corps were limited to supplying marine detachments to vessels of the fleet, and to furnishing guards for the navy yards. Since that time, however, its field of activity has greatly widened. The duty of seizing, fortifying, and defending advance bases for the use of the fleet in time of war has been assigned to the Marine Corps by the Navy Department, and foreign expeditionary duty, in conjunction with the fleet, has become one of its chief missions.

Preparedness for war demands that training in peace should approximate as closely as possible to war conditions and that a military force should be so organized and equipped as to be constantly in immediate readiness for war service. Furthermore, it is essential in the interests of war efficiency that officers should be given the opportunity to command, in time of peace, the organizations which they would be required to command in time of war. A brigadier general or a colonel, for instance, can not command a brigade or a

regiment efficiently in time of war unless he has commanded the unit mentioned in time of peace.

The Navy Department has followed this policy consistently and has mobilized the vessels of the Navy into fleets, squadrons, divisions, and flotillas for the purpose of so training its flag and commanding officers that the entire naval forces may pass from a state of peace to a state of war without any violent changes in their organization. The same principle applies with equal force to the Marine Corps.

Initial steps to supply the need of the corps for a large post on the west coast were taken at the last session of Congress by the incorporation in the naval appropriation bill of a proviso appropriating \$250,000 for the purchase of land near San Diego, Cal. It is of vital importance to the efficiency of the Marine Corps that a similar post on the east coast should be provided and equipped.

3. The following considerations should govern in the selection of the site for this post:

(a) It should be conveniently located with reference to the waters in which the fleet would be concentrated upon the outbreak of war.

(b) It should be located on a harbor of sufficient depth to permit of transports coming alongside the docks.

(c) It should have railway facilities.

(d) It should be of sufficient extent to provide quarters and maneuver fields for the troops and target ranges for small-arm, machine-gun, and field-artillery practice.

(e) Its terrain should be varied, so that it may be suitable for purposes of military instruction.

(f) The site should be a healthy one, and it should be so located as to afford facilities for recreation and liberty for the enlisted men.

Strategic considerations demand that a site on the shores of Chesapeake Bay, or of one of its tributaries, which fulfills the other conditions mentioned above, should be selected.

4. A program based on the general principles outlined above has been embodied in the annual estimates submitted to the department. The main features of this program are as follows:

(a) The purchase of a site for a Marine Corps post on the east coast and the beginning of the construction of the necessary buildings thereon.

(b) The construction of a portion of the buildings for quartering the west coast expeditionary force on the site to be purchased near San Diego, Cal., together with the necessary docks, roads, etc.

(c) The construction of the additional buildings at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa., required for the accommodation of the additional fixed defense companies required by the plans of the department for the advance-base force.

MARINE CORPS LEGISLATION.

5. The current naval appropriation bill authorized a substantial increase of officers and enlisted men and provided as well for a much-needed reorganization of the corps. This reorganization not only corrected existing defects but also supplied the corps with a definite policy for its future governance which will, I believe, be most

far-reaching, lasting, and beneficial in its effects. The defects mentioned above were, in brief, as follows:

- (a) An inadequate proportion of officers to enlisted men.
- (b) An insufficient number of officers in the higher grades.
- (c) A lack of officers with the rank of brigadier general to command the large advance base and expeditionary forces.
- (d) A permanent system of staff appointments instead of a detail system.
- (e) Inequality of promotion of officers in the line and staff.
- (f) The lack of a procedure, other than trial by general court-martial, by which officers appointed from civil life and from the ranks could be removed from the service should they be found, during their course of instruction, to be unfit or unworthy.
- (g) Inequality in the loss of files by officers who failed to qualify professionally in their examinations for promotion.
- (h) The lack of sufficient opportunity for advancement of efficient and faithful enlisted men.
- (i) No authority for the organization of a Marine Corps Reserve.
- (j) No proviso for a temporary increase in the Marine Corps, by executive order, in the event of an emergency.
- (k) An insufficient proportion of noncommissioned officers to privates.
- (l) No reserve of small-arms ammunition.

6. The naval appropriation bill remedied the defects in question by providing:

(a) That the total number of officers of the line and staff of the active list of the Marine Corps shall be 4 per cent of the authorized enlisted strength.

(b) That these officers shall be distributed in the various grades in accordance with a proportion based on the needs of the service.

(c) That the grade of brigadier general be established, the number of general officers being a definite percentage of the total number of officers authorized.

(d) That the number of officers in each staff department shall be a fixed percentage of the total number of officers; that no further permanent appointments shall be made in the staff departments, but that line officers shall be detailed therein for periods of four years; that hereafter when vacancies occur in the senior grade of the staff departments they shall be filled by detail for a period of four years; and that the heads of the three staff departments shall have the rank of brigadier general while so serving.

(e) That in order to equalize future promotions of officers of the line and staff of the Marine Corps, the names of such officers shall be placed on a common list, in the order of seniority each would hold had he remained continuously in the line, and that all advancement in rank, to and including the grade of colonel, shall be made from officers of the next junior respective rank, whether of the line or staff, in the order that their names appear on said list.

(f) That appointees from civil life and from the ranks shall be placed on probation for a period of two years, during which time they are subject to removal by the Secretary of the Navy if found to be inefficient or unworthy; and that at the end of two years they shall submit to a competitive professional examination to determine their rank in the service with reference to each other.

(g) That officers who fail professionally in their examinations for promotion shall lose a definite number of files at once, instead of being suspended from promotion for one year.

(h) That the warrant grades of marine gunner and quartermaster clerk shall be created, and that 20 marine gunners and 20 quartermaster clerks shall be appointed from the noncommissioned officers of the corps.

(i) That a Marine Corps reserve be enrolled, consisting of ex-enlisted men, and of civilians with the necessary qualifications.

(j) That the President be authorized, whenever in his judgment it might become necessary to place the country in a state of preparedness, to further increase the enlisted strength of the Marine Corps to 17,400 men.

(k) That a sufficiently large proportion of noncommissioned officers to privates be authorized to properly perform the duties assigned to the Marine Corps.

(l) That a reserve of approximately 15,000,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition be established.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.

7. It is again recommended that certificates of merit be authorized for enlisted men of the Marine Corps, similar to those awarded to enlisted men of the Army, for gallant or meritorious service of a degree not sufficiently distinguished to warrant the award of medals of honor. These certificates carry with them an increase of pay of \$2 per month, and are an incentive to men to seek opportunities to distinguish themselves.

MAIL CLERKS FOR EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

8. Under existing law enlisted men of the Navy or Marine Corps may be detailed for duty, under the Post Office Department, as mail clerks on board vessels of the Navy. This system has been of great benefit to the naval service. It is urgently recommended that legislation be obtained permitting mail clerks to be similarly detailed for duty with expeditionary forces of marines serving on shore. At the present time these expeditionary forces are without any independent post-office facilities, but are dependent for mail service upon such naval vessels as may be temporarily stationed in the nearest port. Inasmuch as these vessels are frequently changed, or withdrawn, it is manifest that arrangements should be made to provide these forces with post-office facilities of their own. This matter is of especial importance in connection with registered packages, postal money orders, and the official mail.

MARINE BAND.

9. In my last annual report it was stated that increased compensation was essential to the efficiency of the Marine Band on account of the fact that, due to legislation, members of the band had been deprived of the additional compensation formerly received through outside engagements, and that their pay was so small as to make it difficult to obtain the services of high-class musicians. Congress, in

acting favorably on this recommendation, has made it practicable for the Marine Band to maintain its former high standard and to continue to be, what the President's band should be, the leading military band of the United States.

EXPEDITIONS.

HAITI.

10. At the date of my last report the First Brigade, consisting of the First and Second Regiments, the Artillery Battalion, and the Signal Company, under the command of Col. Littleton W. T. Waller, was in occupation of the Republic of Haiti and was engaged in the restoration of order and the preservation of peace in that country. This brigade has carried out its mission in a signally effective manner. Peace has been restored, the inhabitants have returned to their various vocations, and business has rapidly progressed. The work of the Navy and Marine Corps in Haiti was of such a successful nature as to cause the State Department to recommend the enactment of a law authorizing officers and enlisted men to accept appointments as officers in the Haitian Constabulary, the organization of which was provided for in the treaty between the United States and Haiti. This recommendation of the State Department was enacted into law on June 12, 1916, and the constabulary has been fully organized under the command of Maj. Smedley D. Butler, United States Marine Corps, as commandant. It consists of approximately 100 officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps, 12 officers and enlisted men of the Navy, and 2,500 native Haitian gendarmes. It is expected that as Haitian citizens become qualified to serve as officers they will gradually replace the American officers and enlisted men who are now serving as officers of the constabulary.

In connection with this subject, Navy Department General Order No. 197, March 25, 1916, publishing to the service the letter of the State Department concerning the services of the Navy and Marine Corps in Haiti, is quoted:

GENERAL ORDER }
No. 197. }

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., March 25, 1916.

SERVICE IN HAITI.

The department has received with gratification a letter from the Department of State dated March 4, 1916, transmitting a copy of a letter addressed by that department on the same date to the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs of the House of Representatives, a paragraph of which reads:

"I can not too strongly recommend that officers and enlisted men of the Navy and Marine Corps of the United States may be made available for service in Haiti, not only because I am convinced that the purpose of the treaty would be most advantageously carried to a successful completion by them, but particularly on account of the fact that by their excellent behavior and considerate bearing they have gained the confidence and esteem of the Government and people of Haiti, toward whom this Government has now assumed great responsibilities and obligations."

The department takes much pleasure in expressing, through the medium of this general order, its warm appreciation of the excellent services rendered in Haiti by the officers and enlisted men of the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

JOSEPHUS DANIELS,
Secretary of the Navy.

SANTO DOMINGO.

11. In April of this year the situation in Santo Domingo became very serious, owing to a revolution against the constituted authorities, which placed in jeopardy the lives and property of American citizens and other foreigners residing in that country.

In accordance with the orders of the commander of the cruiser force, the Sixth and Ninth Companies, having been transferred from Haiti to the *Prairie*, proceeded to Santo Domingo City and landed there on May 5, 1916, occupying the American legation and consulate. This force was later augmented by the First, Fourth, Fifth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-fourth Companies.

On May 21, 1916, the marine detachments of the *New Jersey*, *Rhode Island*, and *Louisiana*, which vessels had been placed in reserve, sailed from the United States for Santo Domingo via the *Salem* and the *Memphis*.

On June 1, 1916, a landing was effected at Puerto Plata by a battalion consisting of the *Rhode Island's* and *New Jersey's* marine detachments, and a landing force from the *Sacramento*. During the landing operations Capt. Herbert J. Hirshinger, United States Marine Corps, was killed.

On June 5, 1916, the Fourth and Ninth Companies from Santo Domingo City were landed at Puerto Plata, and on the following day the Field and Staff of the Artillery Battalion, together with the Sixth and Thirteenth Companies, were landed at Monte Cristi.

The commander of the cruiser force having reported that an additional regiment was necessary in order to effect the complete pacification of the interior of Santo Domingo, the Fourth Regiment, under command of Col. Joseph H. Pendleton, was, on June 4, 1916, ordered to proceed with its expeditionary outfit from its station at San Diego, Cal., by rail to New Orleans, La. The regiment left San Diego on June 6, 1916, and arrived at New Orleans on June 9, 1916, and with the Eighth Company from New Orleans, embarked and sailed on the *Hancock* on June 11, 1916. This regiment was disembarked at Monte Cristi on June 21 and 22. Col. Joseph H. Pendleton, relieving Col. Theodore P. Kane, was assigned to the command of all the forces operating on shore in Santo Domingo, and was directed to occupy Santiago, an interior city about 75 miles distant from Monte Cristi. At this time the interior of Santo Domingo was under the control of the revolutionary forces, only the principal ports having been occupied by the American forces.

Careful preliminary preparations were made for the expedition, and on June 26, 1916, the column, under the command of Col. Pendleton, advanced from Monte Cristi toward Santiago. It consisted of the following organizations:

Field and Staff, Fourth Regiment.

Field and Staff, Artillery Battalion.

Thirteenth Company (Artillery Battalion).

Eighth Company.

Twenty-sixth Company.

Twenty-seventh Company.

Twenty-eighth Company.

Twenty-ninth Company.

Thirty-first Company.

Thirty-second Company.

Thirty-fourth Company.

The Sixth Company guarded the train.

The Twenty-fifth Company and the marine detachments of the *Louisiana* and the *Memphis* remained on duty at the base at Monte Cristi, while the Fourth, Ninth, and Twenty-fourth Companies and the marine detachments of the *New Jersey* and the *Rhode Island* operated from Puerto Plata toward Navarrete, under the command of Maj. Hiram I. Bearss.

The advance of the main column was continuously resisted by large forces of revolutionists, and was impeded as well by bad roads and the fact that nearly all the bridges were destroyed. It, however, made excellent progress. On July 3 it was found to be necessary, on account of the bad roads, to bring up its train and to sever its communications with Monte Cristi. On July 4, 1916, the force under Maj. Bearss, after several engagements, succeeded in opening the railroad to Navarrete and effected a junction with the main column at that place. Thereafter the expeditionary force was supplied by rail from Puerto Plata.

About this time, through the negotiations of a peace commission, it was arranged that the revolutionists should lay down their arms and that a provisional government should be organized. The column then advanced into Santiago without further opposition, entering that city on July 6, 1916. It has since occupied all of the important points in the interior of Santo Domingo.

This campaign was skillfully and efficiently conducted, and the expeditionary force accomplished the mission assigned to it most successfully and with small loss. Since the occupation of the interior a complete state of peace has reigned in Santo Domingo and law and order have been reestablished.

12. During the operations in Haiti and Santo Domingo the following-named officers and men of the Marine Corps were killed or wounded in action:

HAITI.

Killed.

Sergt. John Platt, September 25, 1915, at Petite Reviere.

Sergt. Edward C. Thompson, September 27, 1915, near Jeremie.

Pvt. Peter Kulick, July 10, 1916, at Acul Samedi.

Wounded.

First Lieut. Edward A. Ostermann, November 11, 1916, near Bahon.

Corpl. George W. Strout, September 26, 1915, at Haut du Cap.

Corpl. Joseph R. Wedor, January 5, 1916, at Port au Prince.

Corpl. John D. Greelish, May 31, 1916, at Port au Prince.

Pvt. Frank J. Brandle, September 26, 1915, at Haut du Cap.

Pvt. Julius Cooley, September 26, 1915, at Haut du Cap.

Pvt. William Dushak, November 2, 1915, at Le Trou.

Pvt. Vincent Gage, September 26, 1915, at Haut du Cap.

Pvt. Bernard C. Glassner, September 26, 1915, at Haut du Cap.
 Pvt. Goff E. Jordan, September 26, 1915, at Haut du Cap.
 Pvt. Frederick W. Remani, September 26, 1915, at Haut du Cap.
 Pvt. Charles F. Schropp, September 26, 1915, at Haut du Cap.
 Pvt. John Wittek, September 26, 1915, at Haut du Cap.
 Pvt. Howard P. Youngs, September 26, 1915, at Haut du Cap.

SANTO DOMINGO.

Killed.

Capt. Herbert J. Hirshinger, June 1, 1916, at Puerto Plata.
 Corpl. George Frazee, July 1, 1916, at Guayacanas.
 Pvt. John J. Awkerman, June 27, 1916, about 27 kilometers from Monte Cristi.
 Pvt. Kleme Milles, June 30, 1916, at Dana Antonio.

Wounded.

Capt. Russell B. Putnam, A. P. M., July 3, 1916, at Guayacanas.
 Second Lieut. Douglas B. Roben, June 29, 1916, at Alta Mira.
 First Sergt. Fernando L. Birrer, June 28, 1916, near Puerto Plata.
 Corpl. Leo P. Cartier, June 27, 1916, about 25 kilometers from Monte Cristi.
 Corpl. Joseph A. Glowin, July 3, 1916, at Guayacanas.
 Corpl. Oscar J. Johnson, July 3, 1916, at Guayacanas.
 Drummer Graeg E. Meriwether, July 3, 1916, at Guayacanas.
 Trumpeter Julius Goldsmith, June 29, 1916, at Alta Mira.
 Pvt. Joseph E. Daley, July 3, 1916, at Guayacanas.
 Pvt. Leon B. Dooley, July 3, 1916, at Guayacanas.
 Pvt. Edward F. Dorsey, June 27, 1916, about 27 kilometers from Monte Cristi.
 Pvt. Elmer C. Harkness, July 28, 1916, while on sentry duty at Santo Domingo City.
 Pvt. William F. Jonseck, July 3, 1916, at Guayacanas.
 Pvt. James Martin, July 3, 1916, at Guayacanas.
 Pvt. Clive Oates, July 3, 1916, at Guayacanas.
 Pvt. Franklin R. Paine, July 3, 1916, at Guayacanas.
 Pvt. George E. Raines, June 27, 1916, about 27 kilometers from Monte Cristi.
 Pvt. Benjamin Rollins, June 27, 1916, about 27 kilometers from Monte Cristi.
 Pvt. Albert Vielbaum, June 27, 1916, about 27 kilometers from Monte Cristi.

WEST COAST OF MEXICO.

13. On November 25, 1915, the First Battalion of the Fourth Regiment, which had been stationed at the San Francisco Exposition, was embarked on board the *San Diego*, and was joined by two companies of the Second Battalion, which had been stationed at San Diego, Cal. On November 28, 1915, the *San Diego* proceeded to the west coast of Mexico, and the regiment was held in readiness for shore operations. The situation having improved the regiment, in February, 1916, returned to San Diego, Cal., and took up its permanent station there.

RELIEF WORK AT SAN DIEGO, CAL.

14. A detachment consisting of two officers and 50 enlisted men, detailed from the Marine Barracks, San Diego, Cal., cooperated with a naval detachment from the Pacific Reserve Fleet in the rescue work incident to the flooding of the Otay and Tia Juana districts near San Diego in February last. Their work was commended in the report of Rear Admiral William F. Fullam, commanding the Pacific Reserve Fleet, and in a memorial of the mayor and common council of the city of San Diego, adopted February 23, 1916, and forwarded to the Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, San Diego, Cal.

CAMPS OF INSTRUCTION.

15. The current naval appropriation bill provides an appropriation of \$31,000 for the establishment and maintenance, under the supervision of the Marine Corps of training camps for the instruction of citizens of the United States who make application and are designated for such training; the said camps to be controlled and regulated by the Secretary of the Navy.

Prior to the above enactment a camp for the instruction of citizens, the expenses of which were defrayed by the Philadelphia Military Training Corps, was established at Lansdowne, Pa., during the period July 21 to August 28. This camp was placed under the supervision of Capt. Logan Feland, United States Marine Corps, and the following officers, who had volunteered their services, were assigned to duty in connection therewith: Capt. Frank Halford, acting quartermaster, Capt. Andrew B. Drum, and First Lieut. Ralph S. Keyser. Twenty enlisted men of the Marine Corps, who had also volunteered their services, were detailed to duty as instructors. I inspected this camp at its opening and at its close, and found that the results achieved were extremely satisfactory. Due to the efforts of the officers and men of the Marine Corps, the citizens who had volunteered for this course of instruction attained in the short time available a very creditable degree of efficiency. In all about 350 citizens received training at this camp.

APPOINTMENT OF SECOND LIEUTENANTS.

16. Last June 6 graduates of the Naval academy were appointed second lieutenants in the Marine Corps, and on August 7, 1916, 18 noncommissioned officers who had been recommended to take the examination for appointment, appeared before an examining board at the Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C. Twelve of these non-commissioned officers passed the examination satisfactorily, and have received their appointments. This examination of noncommissioned officers was a new procedure in the Marine Corps, as heretofore they had taken the examination in competition with candidates from civil life. It was deemed, however, that worthy noncommissioned officers should have the first opportunity for appointment, so as to secure the advantage of being commissioned senior to appointees from civil life. The course followed was in exact accord with the terms of existing law relative to this matter.

On account of the vital and urgent need of additional officers with military training, an examination of graduates of distinguished military colleges was held on September 18, 1916, and as a result of the examination 24 were appointed second lieutenants. These officers, by reason of the military training received at the military colleges, will be available for duty immediately, without the customary 12 months' preliminary instruction required in the case of second lieutenants who have not had the benefit of prior military instruction.

Arrangements have been made for holding a competitive examination of civilian applicants for appointment, under the supervision of the Civil Service Commission, at various places in the United States in November next. It will not be practicable to fill all the remaining vacancies in the immediate future, but it is intended, during the year 1917, to hold additional examinations of noncommissioned officers and civilians.

ADVANCE BASE.

17. Owing to the necessity of utilizing the companies of the fixed defense regiment of the advance base force for infantry duties in Haiti and Santo Domingo, all advance base training during the past year was suspended. As stated in my last annual report, this interruption of training is most detrimental to the efficiency of the advance base organizations. When the additional officers and enlisted men authorized by the current naval appropriation bill have been appointed, enlisted, and trained, it is hoped that it will be unnecessary to divert the fixed defense companies from their specialties for the performance of infantry duties.

An appropriation for advance base material of approximately \$189,000 was incorporated under "Bureau of Ordnance" in the current naval appropriation bill. This appropriation will greatly improve the equipment of the advance base force and will add, therefore, to its efficiency. Estimates for the next fiscal year have been submitted to the Bureau of Ordnance.

TRANSPORTS.

18. The transport authorized for the Marine Corps was launched on June 17, 1916, at the navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa. It was named the *Henderson*, in honor of Brig. Gen. Archibald Henderson, who was commandant of the Marine Corps from 1820 to 1859, and who had a most distinguished record at sea in the War of 1812, on shore in the Indian wars, and as commandant of the Marine Corps.

The three-year building program enacted into law in the current naval appropriation bill provides for the construction of an additional transport.

MARINE OFFICERS' SCHOOL.

19. The regular course of instruction at the Marine Officers' School, Marine Barracks, Norfolk, Va., was suspended on January 1 last, at which time the class, consisting of 10 graduates of the Naval Academy, completed its course of instruction. The course was resumed in July of this year, and a class of six graduates of the Naval Academy, who had recently been appointed second lieutenants, was assigned to the school for a six months' course. The student officers

were encamped at Gettysburg during the month of August, where they received practical instruction in field engineering, minor tactics, military topography, etc. During the first two weeks in September their instruction was continued at the Marine Corps rifle range, Winthrop, Md. This class will graduate in December next, and will be followed by a large class, consisting of appointees from civil life and from the ranks. It will be necessary to increase the number of instructors at the school and to provide additional quarters for the student officers. The construction of a building for this purpose has been authorized by the department, and it will be built and ready for occupancy in the near future.

INSTRUCTION OF OFFICERS AT THE ARMY SERVICE SCHOOLS.

20. The opening of the Army War College, and the Army School of the Line, has been postponed. One officer has been detailed to take the course at the Army War College, and two officers at the Army School of the Line, Fort Leavenworth, Kans.

The existing war in Europe has demonstrated conclusively the great importance of the machine gun. This arm is of special value to the Marine Corps in its advance base and expeditionary work, and it is important that all officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps should be trained in its use. With this end in view, request has been made that the War Department allow officers of the corps to take the course of instruction at the Army Machine Gun School at Fort Sill, Okla.

AVIATION.

21. Five officers and 18 enlisted men are now engaged in aviation duty. In the current naval appropriation bill a complete reorganization of the Naval Flying Corps was effected. As soon as a sufficient number of officers and men become available, the Marine Corps complement will be brought up to the number authorized. Aviation has made great strides in the present war, and has become of great importance to the military and naval services.

By direction of the department a Marine Corps aviation company, consisting of 10 officers and 40 enlisted men, will be organized for duty with the advance base force at as early a date as practicable. This company will be trained in the use of both land and water machines. Two officers who have been trained in the use of seaplanes are now under instruction in the use of land planes at the Army Flying School, San Diego, Cal.

INSPECTIONS.

22. During the period covered by this report the undersigned has inspected the Marine Barracks at Port Royal, S. C., Charleston, S. C., Key West, Fla., Pensacola, Fla., and New Orleans, La., and the officers of the Adjutant and Inspector's Department have made the usual annual inspections of most of the posts and organizations of the Marine Corps. Special reports of these inspections have been submitted when made, and the defects noted have been remedied so far as funds available have permitted.

RECRUIT DEPOTS.

23. On October 28, 1915, by order of the Navy Department, the disciplinary barracks at Port Royal, S. C., was turned over to the Marine Corps for use as a recruit depot, in place of Norfolk, Va. The recruit depot was removed to Port Royal on October 30, 1915. The change in location has resulted in greatly increased efficiency, as the training of the recruits is not interfered with by the necessity of guarding a large industrial establishment. A number of improvements have been made in the buildings at Port Royal. Additional barracks buildings and officers' quarters are essential for the proper housing of the personnel.

TRANSPORTATION.

24. The expeditionary forces in Haiti and Santo Domingo have been equipped with motor trucks, and the results obtained have been extremely satisfactory. In the march of the column from Monte Cristi to Santiago motor trucks instead of horses were used for moving the battery of artillery and its caissons. The officer in command of this battery, in his report, recommended the adoption of motor traction for Marine Corps artillery companies. This will be done, and the mobility and usefulness of these organizations will thereby, it is expected, be greatly increased.

RIFLE PRACTICE.

QUALIFICATIONS.

25. The following table shows the number of enlisted men of the Marine Corps who have qualified as marksman or better in the last six years:

	October 31.			June 30.		May 31.
	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Expert riflemen.....	435	446	663	596	883	1,295
Sharpshooters.....	1,165	2,067	2,863	2,749	2,536	1,990
Marksmen.....	784	634	811	757	1,471	2,524
All grades.....	2,884	3,147	4,307	4,102	4,900	5,809
Per cent of total enlisted strength qualified.	0.318	0.335	0.434	0.415	0.493	0.61

During the year every possible effort was made to enable all enlisted men of the Marine Corps to fire for qualification. The absence of a large number of men on expeditionary duty has prevented them from firing the prescribed course.

RANGES.

26. The Marine Corps rifle range at Winthrop, Md., is being used by the posts at Indian Head, Washington, Norfolk, Philadelphia, and by some of the marine detachments from ships. Arrangements were made for the use of the Bay State rifle range at Wakefield, Mass., under a lease, and a camp of rifle instruction was opened there

on June 1, 1916. The range at Port Royal was used for the target practice of recruits from the depot there, who were given an opportunity to fire during their course of instruction. A new range was opened at the navy yard, Puget Sound, Wash. There are now range facilities sufficient to enable all marines stationed at posts in the United States to fire each year, except at New Orleans, and it is hoped that a range will be constructed at that post in the near future. All permanent posts outside the continental limits of the United States, with the exception of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, have ample facilities to conduct target practice. The matter of the construction of a range at Pearl Harbor is now under consideration, and will no doubt be carried out in the course of the next year.

Practically all marine detachments on board ships of the Atlantic Fleet were enabled to fire either at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, or at one of the ranges in the United States, and vessels of the Pacific and Asiatic fleets have been afforded the use of various ranges in their vicinity.

When ranges have been constructed at New Orleans, La., and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Marine Corps will have sufficient range facilities to enable every man to fire each year.

COMPETITIONS.

27. A Marine Corps competition was held at Winthrop, Md., June 29 and 30, 1916, under the conditions prescribed for departmental competitions in the Army. This was won by Pvt. Thomas W. Wayble, with a very creditable score of 651. The usual number of medals were awarded. In addition, on June 26, an interpost competition was held. Twelve teams representing the posts on the Atlantic coast were entered, and the competition was won by the Port Royal team with a score of 2,698.

RIFLE TEAM (1915)

28. The Marine Corps rifle team of 1915 was very successful in the matches held at Jacksonville, Fla., which comprised the Florida State, Southern Rifle Association, National Rifle Association, and national matches. The following results indicate the showing of the team:

Florida State matches.—Hale cup match, won by Gunnery Sergt. Ollie M. Schriver. Three-hundred-yard rapid-fire match, won by Sergt. Archie Farquharson.

Southern Rifle Association matches.—State-team match, won by Marine Corps team. Long-range team match, won by Marine Corps team. Three-hundred-yard match, won by Corpl. William H. Ford. One-thousand-yard match, won by Pvt. Theodore B. Crawley.

National Rifle Association matches.—The President's match, won by Gunnery Sergt. Andrew Hagen. Members' match, won by Corpl. James F. Coppedge. Rapid-fire match, won by Sergt. Jacob Lienhard. Enlisted men's team match, Marine Corps teams took second, third, and fourth places.

National matches.—National individual match, Pvt. Theodore B. Crawley, second (tied for first place, but outranked in rapid fire). National team match, Marine Corps team, second.

In the national individual match 8 of the 14 gold medals were won by marines. Pvt. Crawley also won a gold medal for the highest aggregate slow fire, and Gunnery Sergt. Joseph Jackson won a similar medal for the highest rapid-fire score. In the shoot-off for the latter medal Gunnery Sergt. Jackson gave the greatest exhibition of rapid-fire shooting ever seen on a rifle range, it having been necessary for him to make 90 straight bull's-eyes at 300 yards before he was declared the winner. The Marine Corps lost the national team match by three points, the Infantry team winning after a most exciting finish.

A Marine Corps team for 1916 was assembled at the rifle range at Winthrop, Md., about July 1, 1916, and after the personnel for try outs was selected the team was transferred to the Marine Corps camp of rifle instruction, Wakefield, Mass., for preliminary training. To date no matches have been held.

ENLISTED FORCE.

29. Gains and losses in the enlisted force during the year have been as follows:

Enlisted.....	2, 718
Reenlisted from Marine Corps.....	862
Reenlisted from Army.....	324
Reenlisted from Navy.....	18
Joined from desertion.....	150
Prisoners restored.....	34
Total gain.....	4, 106
Discharged.....	3, 171
Died.....	52
Deserted.....	659
Retired.....	20
Prisoners sentenced to dishonorable discharge.....	116
Total loss.....	4, 018
Net gain.....	88

DISTRIBUTION OF FORCE.

30. Summary of distribution of officers and enlisted men June 30, 1916:

	Officers.	Enlisted men.
On shore duty:		
In the United States.....	129	4, 156
Outside the United States—		
Foreign stations.....	40	1, 243
Expeditionary duty.....	122	2, 893
On board ship:		
Prison and receiving ships.....		86
Cruising vessels.....	50	1, 678
Total in service June 30, 1916.....	341	10, 056
Allowed by law.....	377	9, 947

The following shows the distribution of officers and enlisted men on September 30, 1916:

	Officers.	Enlisted men.
On shore duty:		
In the United States.....	141	4,896
Outside the United States—		
Foreign stations.....	71	1,243
Expeditious duty.....	85	2,993
On board ship:		
Prison and receiving ships.....		86
Cruising vessels.....	47	1,678
Total in service Sept. 30, 1916.....	344	10,896
Allowed by law.....	597	14,981

APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS, DISMISSALS, DEATHS, ETC.

31. During the year there were six appointments to the grade of second lieutenant from the Naval Academy, and there have been two retirements, one dismissal, and two deaths of officers on the active list.

CAMPAIGN BADGES.

32. Since the last report the following campaign badges and bars have been issued to officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps: Nine medals of honor (N. G. O. 177), 11 West Indian campaign medals, 3 Civil War campaign badges, 14 Spanish campaign badges, 24 Philippine campaign badges, 16 China campaign badges, 14 Army of Cuban pacification badges, and 32 Nicaraguan campaign badges.

GOOD-CONDUCT MEDALS.

33. During the year 1,021 good-conduct medals and 258 good-conduct medal bars were awarded to enlisted men of the Marine Corps.

34.

RECRUITING.

	Fiscal year ending June 30—		
	1914	1915	1916
Total number enlisted.....	3,889	4,068	3,922
Decrease in enlistments of 3.5 per cent.....			
Net desertions.....	856	786	577
Percentage of desertions to total borne on rolls.....	6.0	5.4	4.0
Decrease in desertions of 1.4 per cent.....			
Apprehended and surrendered from desertion.....	400	205	150
Decrease in apprehensions of 26.8 per cent.....			
Dishonorable discharge, sentence of general court-martial.....	185	192	187
Reenlisted from Marine Corps.....	854	820	862
Percentage reenlisting from Marine Corps.....	21.9	20.2	22.0
Total reenlistments (including those from Army).....	1,181	1,277	1,186
Percentage of reenlistments (to total enlistments).....	30.0	31.4	30.2
Discharges by medical survey within three months from date of enlistment.....	20	23	56
Cost per recruit, including transportation.....	\$17.40	\$39.93	\$55.05
Cost per recruit, excluding transportation.....	\$28.57	\$26.51	\$34.01

There are now 4 recruiting divisions, 25 districts, and 160 stations. The recruiting service has been very economically and efficiently administered, and there has been no difficulty in keeping the Marine Corps recruited to its full strength. Every effort is now being made to secure the additional men authorized by Congress, and about 1,000 of these men have already been enlisted.

The cost, including transportation, was increased during the year by \$15.12 per recruit. This increase in cost per recruit was due to the expenditure made in anticipation of a large increase in enlisted personnel, and to the fact that the recruiting service was kept up to its full quota after the corps was enlisted to its authorized strength, in order to provide for the prompt enlistment of the newly authorized men.

The above table also indicates that the percentage of desertions is steadily decreasing.

During June, 1916, three automobile trucks were purchased, and are now in operation in connection with recruiting at Boston, Mass., Atlanta, Ga., and San Francisco, Cal. The system of recruiting by automobile has hardly been in operation long enough to determine its worth, but it is believed that it will eventually prove a great aid to recruiting.

MANAGUA.

35. The legation guard at Managua, Nicaragua, is quartered in buildings belonging to the Nicaraguan Government. These buildings are in such bad repair and in such an insanitary condition as to be uninhabitable. It has, therefore, now become necessary either to expend a large amount of money in repairs to buildings belonging to a foreign Government or else to construct new buildings. The State Department has under consideration the purchase of a very desirable tract of land just outside the city of Managua as a site for the legation. If this be done, new buildings for the legation guard should be erected on this tract in the vicinity of the legation buildings. It is strongly urged that an early decision in this matter be reached, and action taken to secure the necessary appropriation at the next session of Congress. The sum of \$20,000 should be authorized for the erection of suitable buildings for the officers and enlisted men of the guard.

PEKING.

36. The buildings occupied by the legation guard at Peking, China, were constructed about 15 years ago as temporary shelter for the guard at that place. They are no longer fit for occupancy, and should be replaced by new buildings. Unless it is the intention to withdraw the legation guard in the immediate future, it is urged that the estimates for new buildings at Peking be approved by the department.

GUAM.

37. It is essential that the officers and men stationed at Guam should be supplied with permanent quarters as soon as possible. In my last annual report it was stated that "The officers and men in

Guam at present are occupying temporary huts erected by the labor of the troops, and should, at the earliest date practicable, be supplied with permanent quarters." An appropriation of \$10,000 was incorporated in the current naval appropriation bill for officers' quarters in Guam, but this is altogether insufficient to house the officers on duty there. No appropriation was made for barracks for the enlisted men. It is again urged that steps be taken to select a site for a Marine Corps barracks in Guam and to erect the necessary buildings thereon.

MARINE BARRACKS, SAN DIEGO, CAL.

38. On January 18, 1916, the department designated the Marine Barracks, San Diego, Cal., as the permanent station of the Marine Corps west coast expeditionary force. Upon the purchase of the land provided for in the current naval appropriation bill, and the assignment of a site to the Marine Corps, it is the intention of this office to station there the west coast expeditionary force, consisting of about 1,400 officers and men. It is earnestly recommended that the estimates submitted for the erection of the necessary buildings, etc., at that place be approved by the department.

PHILADELPHIA DEPOT OF SUPPLIES.

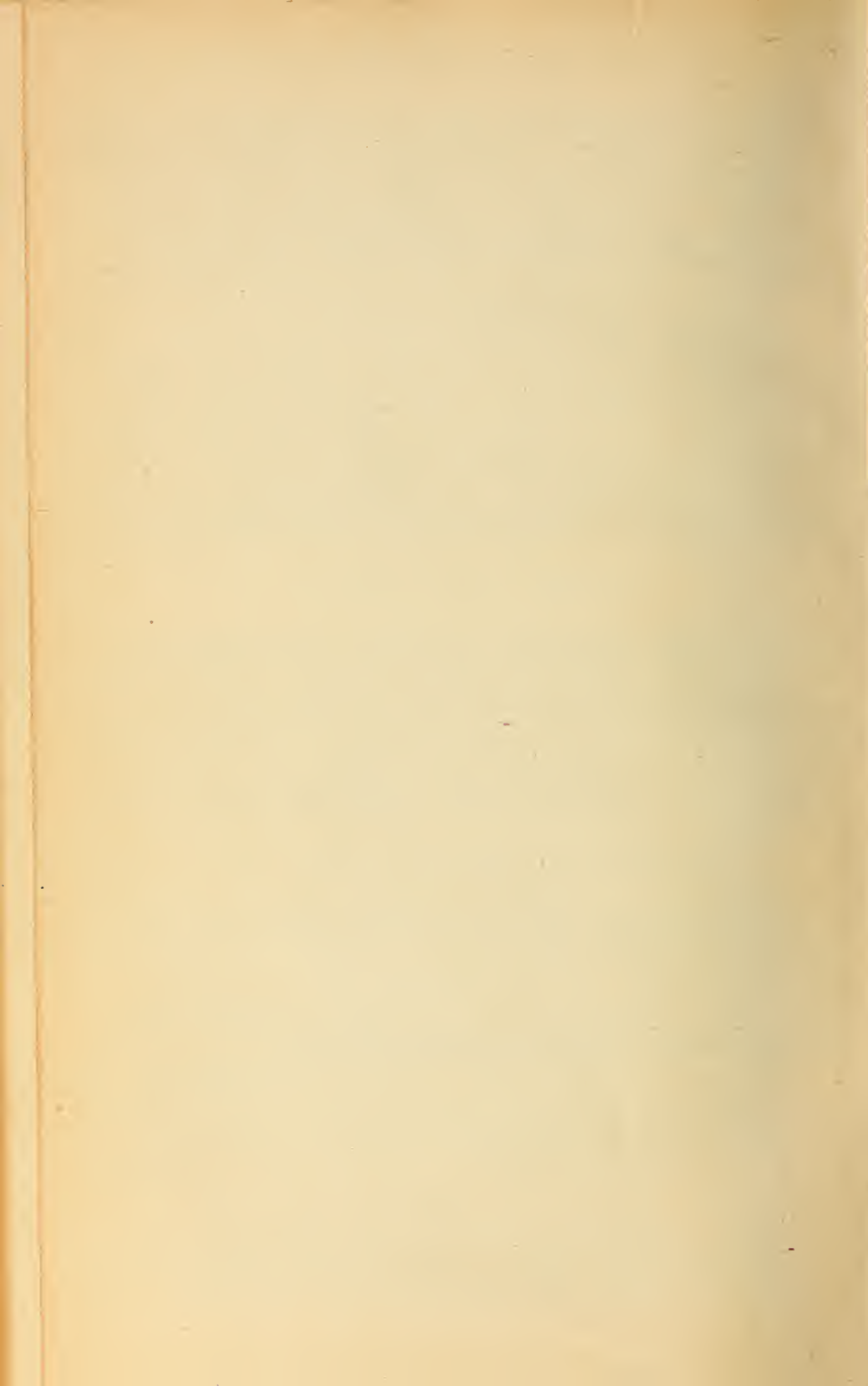
39. In my last annual report it was stated: "There is great necessity for a further addition to the depot of supplies in Philadelphia, Pa., not only for use as storage space for clothing of enlisted men and miscellaneous military supplies but for manufacturing purposes." An appropriation of \$175,000 was incorporated in the current naval appropriation bill for the extension of the depot. The purchase of the ground and the construction of the building has already been taken up, and it is expected that this matter will be settled in the near future.

NEW BARRACKS AT NORFOLK AND MARE ISLAND.

40. Work on the new buildings at Norfolk and Mare Island is progressing satisfactorily. The contract for the former was awarded on October 22, 1915, and provides for the completion of the building on October 22, 1916. The contract for the latter was awarded on November 4, 1915, and provides for the completion of the building on November 4, 1916. These buildings are being erected in accordance with the provisions of the act of March 3, 1915.

GEORGE BARNETT.





NAVY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
OF THE UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS

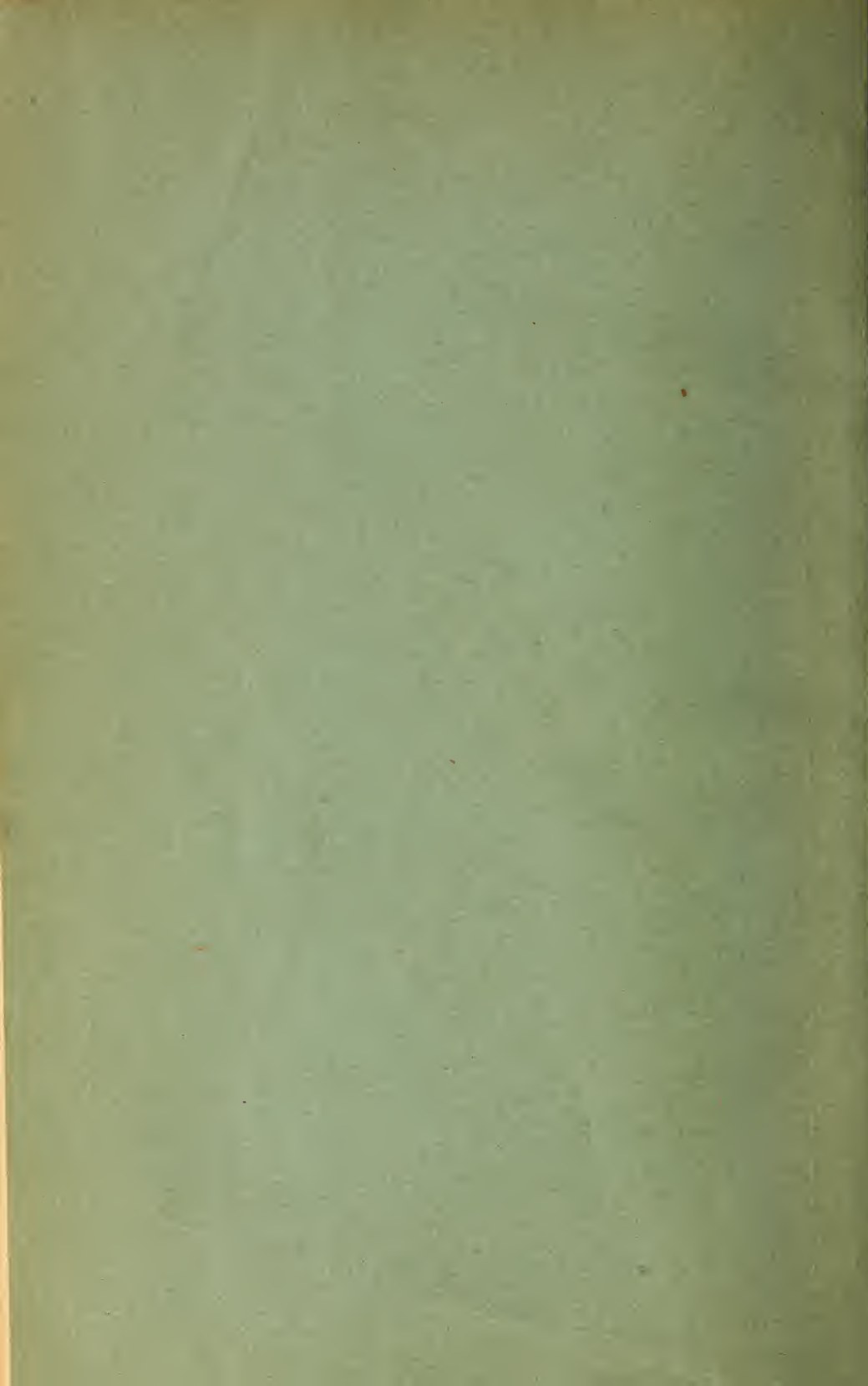
TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR 1917



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1917



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
Washington, October 10, 1917.

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: The Secretary of the Navy.
Subject: Annual report of the condition and service of the United States Marine Corps.

INCREASE OF THE MARINE CORPS.

1. The authorized strength of the Marine Corps was increased by the act of August 29, 1916, from 344 officers and 9,921 enlisted men to 597 officers and 14,981 enlisted men, and the President was authorized in an emergency to further increase the corps to 693 officers and 17,400 enlisted men. One year ago its actual strength was 344 officers and 10,896 enlisted men.

2. On March 26, 1917, the President issued the following Executive order:

Executive order: By virtue of the authority vested in the President by the act approved August 29, 1916, entitled "An act making appropriations for the Naval Service for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and seventeen, and for other purposes," it is hereby directed that the authorized enlisted strength of the Marine Corps be increased to seventeen thousand four hundred men.

WOODROW WILSON.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
March 26, 1917.
(No. 2561.)

3. The act of May 22, 1917, provided for the temporary increase of the Marine Corps, during the duration of the war, to a strength of 1,197 officers and 30,000 enlisted men.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS.

4. During the 12 months that have elapsed since the submission of the last annual report 852 officers have been appointed. Of these, 91 were appointed prior to April 7, 1917, from the following sources:

(a) Meritorious noncommissioned officers of the Marine Corps.....	15
(b) Former officer of the Marine Corps.....	1
(c) Graduates of distinguished military colleges.....	40
(d) Civilians qualified by competitive examination.....	28
(e) Graduates of the Naval Academy.....	7

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5. The outbreak of war made it essential that the corps should be filled, as far as practicable, with officers who had had prior military experience and training, and immediate steps were taken to

arrange for the designation and examination of Marine Corps warrant officers, noncommissioned officers, graduates of military colleges, and other civilians with military experience and training.

6. The appointments made subsequent to the declaration of war, both for the permanent service, and for the temporary increase authorized for the duration of the war, were drawn from the following sources:

(a) Graduates of the Naval Academy.....	6
(b) Former officer of the Marine Corps.....	1
(c) Former graduate of the Naval Academy.....	1
(d) Warrant officers and paymaster's clerks of the Marine Corps.....	89
(e) Meritorious noncommissioned officers.....	122
(f) Reserve officers and National Naval Volunteers.....	36
(g) Graduates of military colleges.....	284
(h) Other civilians with prior military or naval experience or training.....	136
(i) Other civilians passing the competitive examination held July 10, 1917.....	86

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(Two other candidates who took the examination on July 10 are awaiting the result of their physical examination. In case they are found to be physically qualified they will be appointed.)

7. In order to expedite the training of the new officers, advantage was taken of the law providing for a Marine Corps Reserve, and successful candidates were immediately enrolled as second lieutenants in the Reserve and ordered to Marine Corps posts for instruction pending the issuance of their commissions. Candidates designated for the July 10 examination were authorized upon designation to enroll as privates in the Marine Corps Reserve, with the understanding that upon the completion of their examination they would be ordered to the recruit depot at Paris Island, S. C., for training, pending the receipt of the report of the examining board. This policy was carried out, and the successful candidates have been commissioned second lieutenants in the Marine Corps, while the unsuccessful candidates have been given the option of continuing in the service as enlisted men or of being discharged therefrom.

8. Owing to the unusually large number of young men of excellent education and fine attainments who have enlisted in the Marine Corps since the outbreak of war, it has been decided that no further appointments of civilians to the rank of second lieutenant will be made during the continuance of the war, and that all vacancies occurring in that grade, not required for graduates of the Naval Academy, will be filled by the promotion of meritorious noncommissioned officers. This decision was promulgated to the service in the following Marine Corps order:

JUNE 4, 1917.

Marine Corps Orders, No. 25 (Series 1917). 300. (1) Owing to the fact that there are already on file so very many more applications of civilians for appointment as second lieutenants than there are vacancies to be filled, it has become necessary to discontinue the consideration of any additional applications for either regular or temporary appointments. (2) When the cases of those already designated have been settled, practically all vacancies occurring during the war will be filled by the appointment of meritorious noncommissioned officers who distinguish themselves in active service.

GEORGE BARNETT,
Major General Commandant.

INSTRUCTION OF OFFICERS.

9. The officers appointed from civil life, as soon as enrolled, were ordered to the marine barracks, Mare Island, Cal., San Diego, Cal., Paris Island, S. C., and the Marine Corps rifle range, Winthrop, Md., for instruction, pending the completion of the buildings for their use at the marine barracks, Quantico, Va. Early in July, the buildings being in readiness, the newly appointed officers were assembled at Quantico, where an officers' camp of instruction is now being held. Reports from this camp indicate that the progress of the new officers has been very satisfactory. A large number of the more advanced of these officers have already been assigned to active duty ashore and afloat. The course of instruction for the present class will be completed about the 20th instant, and a new class will be assembled immediately after that date.

RECRUITING.

10. An examination of the data given in this report shows the splendid work done by the recruiting service and the Publicity Bureau. The organization of the recruiting service was well adapted to the great recruiting campaign which became necessary after the declaration of war, and no change was made therein other than an increase of the personnel and in the number of recruiting stations—the number of recruiting divisions and districts remaining the same as before. Not only did the recruiting service succeed in obtaining sufficient men to bring the corps up to full strength in a remarkably short period of time, but what is of even greater importance, the character of the recruits joining the corps was exceptionally high.

RECRUIT DEPOTS.

11. Upon enlistment all Marine Corps recruits are transferred to recruit depots, where they undergo a course of training before being distributed to the service. Upon the outbreak of the war there were two Marine Corps recruit depots, one located at Paris Island, S. C., and the other at the navy yard, Mare Island, Cal. Owing to the rapidity with which recruiting was conducted, it became necessary in a very short time after the declaration of war to shelter and train about 6,000 recruits at Paris Island and 2,500 at Mare Island. In addition, temporary recruit depots were opened at the navy yards, Philadelphia, Pa., and Norfolk, Va., with a capacity of 2,500 for the former and 500 for the latter. The large sudden increase in the number of recruits at the recruit depots brought a great strain on their organizations, but the situation was successfully handled and the newly enlisted men were cared for and received the usual recruit training, including a complete course of instruction on the rifle range before being transferred to duty.

12. The officers and noncommissioned officers engaged in this arduous and important duty, in my opinion, deserve the highest commendation.

READINESS FOR SERVICE.

13. The additional officers and enlisted men authorized by the acts of August 29, 1916, and May 22, 1917, have been appointed and enlisted. The organization of the enlarged corps is practically complete and the entire corps is engaged in advanced training. This training is intensive in its nature and the new organizations have already attained a high state of efficiency.

14. It is believed that it would be altogether practicable to still further enlarge the Marine Corps, thereby giving its officers and enlisted men the opportunity of rendering greater service to the country. The advisability of doing so is submitted to the department for its consideration.

NEW LEGISLATION.

15. The outbreak of the war and the rapid growth of the Marine Corps have thoroughly tested the personnel legislation contained in the act of August 29, 1916. It has not only stood the test satisfactorily, but has added greatly to the efficiency of the corps. No new personnel legislation is therefore recommended at this time, except the creation of the rank of "private, first class," and the amendment of section 1570 of the Revised Statutes as mentioned below. This rank has recently been authorized for the mobile army, and as the pay of the Marine Corps is the same, grade for grade, as that of the Infantry, the privates of the corps are, as a matter of simple justice, entitled to the opportunity to obtain this advancement.

The proposed amendment to section 1570 of the Revised Statutes was recommended by the Secretary of the Navy in his letter to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs, dated December 15, 1916, and reads as follows:

Every seaman, landsman, or marine, who performs the duty of a fireman on board any vessel of war shall be entitled to receive, in addition to his compensation as seaman, landsman, or marine, a compensation at the rate of thirty-three cents a day for the time he is employed as fireman.

EXPEDITIONS.

16. In June last, by direction of the President, a certain portion of the Marine Corps was detached for service with the Army on the continent.

HAITI.

17. The First Provisional Brigade of Marines, in conjunction with the Haitian Constabulary, has continued its efficient service in Haiti. A state of peace has been effectively maintained, and the inhabitants of the country have been given an opportunity to develop its resources.

SANTO DOMINGO.

18. The Second Provisional Brigade of Marines has continued on duty as the military garrison of the Republic of Santo Domingo. This brigade has successfully repressed banditry and has restored that country to a state of peace and good order. In accomplishing this result it has been necessary for detachments of the brigade

to engage, from time to time, in pursuit of the various bands of outlaws which were committing depredations.

19. These operations were conducted in the most efficient and expeditious manner. All the bandit leaders have been captured or killed, and their followers dispersed, and the work of the officers and enlisted men taking part in the suppression of banditry has been commended by the brigade commander and by the military governor of Santo Domingo. The following officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps were killed or wounded in the conduct of these operations:

Killed.

Capt. William W. Low, October 24, 1916, at Duarte, Santo Domingo.

Second Lieut. James K. Bolton, January 10, 1917, at San Pedro de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

* First Sergt. Frank L. Atwood, October 24, 1916, at Duarte, Santo Domingo.

* Pvt. Gus R. Olson, January 20, 1917, at San Pedro de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

Wounded.

Maj. John A. Hughes, December 3, 1916, near San Francisco de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

* Capt. John R. Henley, January 10, 1917, at San Pedro de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

* Gunnery Sergt. Earl W. Garvin, April 7, 1917, at Las Canitas, Santo Domingo.

* Corpl. George Wilson, jr., January 20, 1917, at San Pedro de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

* Pvt. Arthur W. Anderson, November 29, 1916, at San Francisco de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

* Pvt. Herman S. Clark, November 29, 1916, at San Francisco de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

* Pvt. Luther G. Gaskins, November 29, 1916, at San Francisco de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

* Pvt. Otto E. Hagstrom, November 29, 1916, at San Francisco de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

* Pvt. Robert C. McLennan, November 29, 1916, at San Francisco de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

* Pvt. Lloyd W. Nicholson, November 30, 1916, at San Francisco de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

* Pvt. Robert H. Osborn, November 29, 1916, at San Francisco de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

* Pvt. Ernest V. Pockrus, April 7, 1917, at Las Canitas, Santo Domingo.

Pvt. Constant G. Small, April 7, 1917, at Las Canitas, Santo Domingo.

* Pvt. Sumter Sumner, November 29, 1916, at San Francisco de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

* Pvt. William C. Twele, November 29, 1916, at San Francisco de Macoris, Santo Domingo.

20. In view of the fact that conditions in the Republic of Santo Domingo are practically the same as those heretofore existing in Haiti, the organization of a native military force, similar to the Haitian constabulary, was deemed expedient. A tentative plan for this organization, to be known as the Guardia Nacional Dominicana, proposed by the military governor of Santo Domingo, together with the recommendations of the undersigned, is now under consideration by the department. Preliminary steps toward its establishment have been taken, about 600 of the enlisted force having been recruited, and 20 officers appointed from officers and noncommissioned officers of the Marine Corps. It is expected that this organization will prove as effective in maintaining peace and good order in Santo Domingo as the Haitian constabulary has in Haiti.

CUBA.

21. During the revolution which took place in Cuba last winter it became necessary to land marines and seamen from the vessels of the fleet at various places in Oriente and Camaguey Provinces to protect American property from the depredations of the rebel bands. The marine detachments of the *Connecticut*, *South Carolina*, *Michigan*, *Machias*, *Montana*, *New York*, *Texas*, and *Olympia*, and the Forty-third, Fifty-first, and Fifty-fifth Companies of Marines, from the *New Hampshire*, *Vermont*, and the *Maine*, served ashore at different times during the period from March 1 to May 24, 1917, and the landing force was reinforced by a battalion of marines consisting of the Seventh, Seventeenth, and Twentieth Companies.

VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES.

22. Upon the transfer of the Virgin Islands by the Kingdom of Denmark to the United States, in April, 1917, a battalion of marines was assigned as the military garrison of those islands.

ADVANCED BASE FORCE.

23. The fixed defense companies of the Advanced Base Force which, at the date of my last annual report, were stationed in Haiti and Santo Domingo, having been relieved by newly organized infantry companies, have resumed their station and advanced base training at the Marine Barracks, navy yard, Philadelphia, Pa., where the troops are being exercised in the drills necessary for advanced base work, including infantry drill, heavy and light artillery, mining, signal drills of every variety, and aviation. Two regiments of Infantry for advanced base work are being trained at Quantico, Va., and the artillery battalion of the Advanced Base Force is also being trained at that place. Sixteen 8-inch howitzers are expected to be delivered early in November. Sixteen 5-inch guns of the advanced base outfit were taken for use on board merchant ships. Similar guns in size and number should be returned to the Advanced Base Force at as early a date as practicable, so that the necessary training in their use may be continued. The equipment of the Advanced Base Force is as complete as possible in every respect in accordance with the appropriations available for that purpose.

MARINE OFFICERS' SCHOOL.

24. The Marine Officers' School was reopened at Norfolk, Va., on April 10, 1917, and a class of 32 student officers was given an intensive course of instruction at that place. In July the school was removed to the Marine Barracks, Quantico, Va., where the newly appointed officers are now under instruction.

INSPECTIONS.

25. During the period covered by this report the undersigned inspected the Marine Corps expeditionary forces in Haiti and Santo Domingo, the marine barracks at Quantico, Va., and Philadelphia, Pa., and the recruit depot at Paris Island, S. C., and the officers of the Adjutant and Inspector's Department have made the usual annual inspection of nearly all the posts and organizations of the Marine Corps. Special reports of these inspections have been made, and the defects noted have been remedied as far as funds available have permitted. The reports show a satisfactory condition of the corps as to discipline and efficiency.

RIFLE PRACTICE.

QUALIFICATIONS.

26. The following table shows the number of enlisted men of the Marine Corps who have qualified as marksman or better in recent years:

	October—							June, 1917.	August, 1917.
	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916		
Expert riflemen.....	309	435	446	633	542	1,169	1,417	1,709	2,089
Sharpshooters.....	878	1,665	2,067	2,843	2,746	2,301	1,960	2,373	3,077
Marksmen.....	723	781	634	811	957	2,177	3,246	6,011	8,653
All grades.....	1,910	2,881	3,147	4,307	4,245	5,647	6,623	10,093	13,819
Average per cent:									
Expert riflemen.....	0.034	0.048	0.046	0.065	0.055	0.119	0.128	0.064	0.069
Sharpshooters.....	.096	.183	.221	.294	.278	.236	.176	.089	.103
Marksmen.....	.079	.087	.068	.083	.097	.220	.291	.226	.290
	.209	.318	.335	.442	.430	.575	.535	.379	.462

Since the last report of target practice the strength of the Marine Corps has been trebled, and the large increase has severely taxed the facilities for range instruction at Paris Island, S. C., Mare Island, Cal., and Winthrop, Md., where the majority of the new men received their instruction. In spite of the large number of men who were put through the course of training excellent results were obtained, the percentage of qualifications being only slightly less than that attained when the strength of the Marine Corps was less than 10,000 men.

The congestion being relieved at Paris Island, more time is being devoted to instruction practice, and a very much larger percentage of qualifications will be obtained. Rifle ranges are being constructed in Haiti and Santo Domingo, where the troops now on expeditionary duty are being put through a careful course of instruction, and it is believed that the results obtained on these ranges will bring the percentage of qualified men in the Marine Corps above the mark reached in 1916.

RANGES.

27. The Marine Corps Rifle Range at Winthrop, Md., will shortly be abandoned, and a rifle range is now being constructed at Quantico, Va., to which the range equipment from Winthrop will be transferred. A short time after Winthrop is evacuated the Quantico range will be in operation, and will accommodate the posts at Indian Head, Washington, Norfolk, Philadelphia, and some of the marine detachments from ships.

The Bay State Rifle Range at Wakefield, Mass., has been taken over by the Navy, and arrangements have been made whereby the Marines from Portsmouth, N. H., Boston, and Hingham may send men to the range. The Navy has also established camps at Virginia Beach, Va., and Charleston, S. C., where similar arrangements have been made for the accommodation of nearby posts.

COMPETITIONS.

28. Owing to war conditions no national match was held this year, nor have any matches been held under the auspices of the National Rifle Association.

ENLISTED FORCE.

29. Gains and losses in the enlisted force during the year have been as follows

En'listed.....	16, 376
Reenlisted from Marine Corps.....	1, 419
Reen listed from Army.....	236
Reen listed from Navy.....	40
Joined from desertion.....	328
Prisoners restored.....	57
Total gain.....	18, 456
Discharged.....	2, 741
Died.....	60
Deserted.....	701
Retired.....	11
Prisoners sentenced to dishonorable discharge.....	219
En.listments canceled.....	8
Total loss.....	3, 740

DISTRIBUTION OF FORCE.

30. Summary of distribution of officers and enlisted men, June 30, 1917:

	Officers.	Marine gunners.	Quarter-master clerks.	Clerks, pay department.	Enlisted men.
Regular service:					
At posts within the United States.....	206	15	19	8	15,654
Cn duty at foreign stations.....	53				1,808
Cn board cruising vessels.....	51				1,806
Cn expeditionary duty.....	161	12	2	2	5,444
Total.....	471	27	21	10	24,722
Allowed by law.....	1,197	50	50	2	30,000
Marine Corps reserve:					
At posts within the United States.....	288				809
Cn expeditionary duty.....	25				95
Total.....	313				903
Marine Corps branch:					
At posts within the United States.....	31				809
Cn expeditionary duty.....	1				77
Total.....	32				886

DISTRIBUTION ON SEPT. 30, 1917.

Regular service:					
At posts within the United States.....	628		2	12	19,309
Cn duty at foreign stations.....	66				1,908
Cn board cruising vessels.....	73				2,519
Cn expeditionary duty.....	332	1		5	6,526
Total.....	1,099	1	2	17	30,222
Marine Corps reserve:					
At posts within the United States.....	7				934
Cn board cruising vessels.....					5
Cn expeditionary duty.....	2				166
Total.....	9				1,105
Marine Corps branch:					
Cn duty within the United States.....	12				738
Cn duty at foreign stations.....					14
Cn expeditionary duty.....					88
Cn board cruising vessels.....					21
Total.....	12				861

¹ Since Sept. 30, 1917, 86 officers have been appointed.

RETIREMENTS, DEATHS, AND RESIGNATIONS.

31. From the time of my last report to date there have been 7 retirements, 10 deaths, and 2 resignations of officers. (The deaths include 6 officers of the retired list.)

WARRANT OFFICERS.

32. During the year there were 41 quartermaster clerks and 43 marine gunners appointed, all but 3 of whom have been commissioned temporary second lieutenants.

MEDALS OF HONOR.

33. Since the submission of the last annual report the following officers and enlisted men have been awarded medals of honor:

(General Order 244, Navy Department, Nov. 2, 1916):

First Sergt. Roswell Winans and Corpl. Joseph A. Glowin, for extraordinary heroism in the line of their profession, and their eminent and conspicuous courage in the face of the enemy in the action at Guayacanes, Santo Domingo, July 3, 1916.

(General Order 289, Navy Department, Apr. 27, 1917):

First Lieut. Ernest C. Williams, for extraordinary heroism in the line of his profession in the face of the enemy at San Francisco de Macoris, Santo Domingo, November 29, 1916.

(General Order 319, Navy Department, Aug. 25, 1917):

Lieut. Col. Smedley D. Butler, for conspicuous bravery during the attack on Fort Riviere, Haiti, November 17, 1915.

Capt. Edward A. Ostermann, for conspicuous gallantry during the engagement incident to the capture of Fort Dipitie, Haiti, October 24, 1915.

Capt. William P. Upshur, for conspicuous gallantry during the engagement incident to the capture of Fort Dipitie, Haiti, October 24, 1915.

Corpl. Samuel Gross, for coolness and bravery in entering Fort Riviere, Haiti, during the attack of November 17, 1915.

Gunnery Sergt. Daniel Daly, for conspicuous gallantry during the engagements incident to the capture of Forts Dipitie and Riviere, Haiti, in October and November, 1915.

LIFE-SAVING MEDAL.

34. Pvt. Edward H. Pawlowsky was awarded a silver life-saving medal by the Treasury Department, for gallant conduct in rescuing a woman from drowning near New Orleans, La., June 10, 1916.

CAMPAIGN BADGES.

35. Since the last report the following campaign medals and badges have been issued to officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps: 7 West Indian campaign medals, 13 Spanish campaign badges, 30 Philippines campaign badges, 12 China campaign badges, 22 Army of Cuban Pacification badges, 17 Nicaraguan campaign badges.

The issuance of a badge for the officers and enlisted men who participated in the campaign in Haiti has been authorized by the department.

GOOD-CONDUCT MEDALS.

36. During the past year 1,008 good-conduct medals and 254 good-conduct medal bars were awarded to enlisted men of the Marine Corps.

37.

RECRUITING.

	Fiscal year ending June 30—		
	1915	1916	1917
Total number enlisted.....	4,068	3,922	17,748
(Increase in enlistments of 360.7 per cent.)			
Net desertions.....	786	577	475
Percentage of desertions to total borne on rolls.....	5.4	4	1.6
(Decrease in percentage of desertions 2.4 per cent.)			
Apprehended and surrendered from desertion.....	205	150	328
(Increase in apprehensions, etc. 118.6 per cent.)			
Discharged, sentence of general court-martial.....	192	187	142
Reenlisted from the Marine Corps.....	820	862	1,419
Percentage reenlisting from Marine Corps.....	20.2	22	7.8
Total reenlistments, including those from Army.....	1,277	1,186	1,655
Percentage of reenlistments to total enlistments.....	31.4	30.2	9.2
Discharges by medical survey within 3 months from date of enlistment..	23	56	51
Cost per recruit including transportation.....	\$30.93	\$55.05	\$31.17
Cost per recruit excluding transportation.....	\$26.51	\$34.01	\$9.97

There are 4 recruiting divisions, 26 recruiting districts, and 374 recruiting stations, with 26 officers and 428 enlisted men on recruiting duty.

The recruiting service has been very economically and most efficiently administered, and great credit is due to officers and enlisted men for the gratifying results obtained. The cost per recruit has been materially reduced, and the quality of the recruits has been materially improved. The percentage of men reenlisting from the Marine Corps, who were eligible to reenlist, shows a very gratifying increase, having been 46.3 per cent in 1916 and 83.4 per cent in 1917. The percentage of desertions is also gradually decreasing, having been reduced from 4 per cent in 1916 to 1.6 per cent in 1917. The system of postmaster recruiting authorized by the act of August 29, 1916, has been successful, and it is anticipated that it will eventually prove a great aid to the recruiting service. From the date of the declaration of war, April 6, 1917, to the end of the fiscal year, 12,108 men enlisted in the Marine Corps. The facilities of the Marine Corps publicity bureau were greatly expanded, and that bureau played a very large and important part in the recruiting campaign.

CANTONMENTS.

PARIS ISLAND.

38. Upon the declaration of war it became necessary to take steps to provide for the housing of the largely increased number of enlisted men. Facilities at the two recruit depots at Paris Island, S. C., and Mare Island, Cal., were sufficient for only about 1,000 and 350 men, respectively. Cantonments for 7,000 men have been constructed at Paris Island. This work included the installation of a complete new water system, involving the digging of five wells, construction of pressure tanks, mains, branches, and connections to all parts of the cantonment and quarantine station, and the installation of reservoirs, pumps, etc. A separate sewerage system for the new buildings was made necessary, owing to the inadequate facilities afforded at the station proper. Ice, power, and incinerating plants for this cantonment were provided. Mess tables and benches were furnished for all

kitchens and mess halls, clothing boxes for each barracks, and the buildings were suitably screened against flies, mosquitoes, etc. New boilers were installed in the main power plant, and a new generator, motor, and two boiler feed pumps. A building, with latrine and wash-house, was erected for use of the working force at the pumping station. The quarantine station, station proper, and the maneuver grounds were put in a sanitary condition by replacing old wood floors with cement floors, repairs to quarters, improving the messing facilities, and the installation of a 10,000-gallon pressure tank of water. Labor and material were furnished for the construction of new roads through all parts of the cantonment and the quarantine station, and extensive repairs were made to the approaches to the dock, so that materials could be expeditiously handled. Stoves for the kitchen, mess gear, cooking utensils, ice boxes, and fire protection for the new buildings have also been provided. Altogether a practically new post for 7,000 men, with all modern improvements for the health and comfort of the men, has been built, and this without any interruption in the work of the post.

QUANTICO.

39. Quantico, Va., was selected as the site for a concentration and training camp for approximately 7,000 men, and approximately 6,000 acres were leased at that place. This site provides ample facilities for a maneuver field for all troops, including a target range for infantry and field artillery. Barracks buildings have been constructed to accommodate 50 men each, and separate mess halls, kitchens, lavatories, etc., have been provided for each company. A cold-storage plant, having a capacity of 15 tons of ice daily and 15,000 cubic feet of cold storage, and a laundry capable of handling Government linen, are in process of construction. The buildings are of the simplest possible construction, but are screened and double-floored.

MARE ISLAND.

40. To meet the increase of the command at this post it became necessary to build extensions to the camp mess hall and kitchen, and to provide necessary toilets and washhouses; also to erect three temporary barracks, a quartermaster's storehouse, a post exchange and amusement building, and quarters for the sick.

DEPOT OF SUPPLIES, PHILADELPHIA.

41. This is the main depot of supplies of the Marine Corps. All articles of uniform for enlisted men, excepting caps, blankets, underwear, shoes, and rubber goods are manufactured at this depot. Besides articles of uniform, many other military supplies, such as tentage, accouterments, blanket bags, field desks, mess tables, boxes, sheets, pillowcases, garbage cans, cots, flags, camp stools, and supplies of a miscellaneous nature for field equipment, are manufactured at this depot. The tripling of the enlisted strength of the corps since the declaration of war with Germany, found this plant entirely inadequate to meet the needs of the service, and it was necessary to rent storage space elsewhere, the depot building proper now being used only for manufacturing purposes. To increase the facilities at this depot by

enlarging the plant, the sum of \$175,000 was authorized in the act of August 29, 1916, to which sum Congress authorized an additional amount of \$200,000 in the act of March 4, 1917, and in the act making the appropriation to supply urgent deficiencies, approved June 15, 1917, a further sum of \$200,000 was provided, making a total of \$575,000, with which to purchase land adjoining the depot, and erect thereon a suitable addition to the present building. Condemnation proceedings have been in course for some time under the direction of the Navy Department, with a view to securing land at the earliest practicable date, and plans and specifications for the new addition are being prepared under the direction of the Bureau of Yards and Docks. It is expected that proposals for the construction work will be issued at an early date, as it is desired to start the actual construction work as soon as possible.

DEPOT OF SUPPLIES, SAN FRANCISCO.

42. An item of \$225,000 has been included in the estimates for 1919, for the purchase of a site and erection thereon of a modern fireproof building, for use as a depot of supplies and the staff offices located in San Francisco. The building now occupied for depot purposes is owned by private parties, and an annual rental of \$10,500 is paid therefor. It would be in the interest of economy, as well as efficiency, for the Marine Corps to own its own building.

MARINE BARRACKS, SAN DIEGO, CAL.

43. The purchase of 232 acres of land, bordering on or near the bay of San Diego, Cal., to be used for advanced base, expeditionary, and aviation purposes, was consummated by the Navy Department on June 15, 1917, at a cost of \$250,000, which purchase was authorized in the naval act approved August 29, 1916. This tract contains high land and upland marsh land, the latter requiring considerable filling in before it can be used for building purposes. Five hundred acres of tide lands adjoining the 232 acre tract have been donated by the city of San Diego, Cal. It is understood that the War Department will cooperate with the Bureau of Yards and Docks in disposing of the spoil as the result of dredging in such manner as to improve the site of the Marine Corps base. Building operations will be undertaken as soon as possible. The marines stationed at San Diego are now occupying several buildings in the Exposition Grounds which were turned over for temporary use by the Exposition authorities at a nominal rental.

EAST COAST POST.

44. The attention of the department is invited to my annual report of last year, in which the necessity for the establishment of a permanent east coast post is fully set forth. The fact that during the last year the department has found it necessary to direct that buildings for navy yard purposes be constructed on the site of the marine barracks at the navy yard, New York; that the buildings equipped as quarters for marines at the naval station, New Orleans, La., be turned over to the Navy; that the marine barracks at the Naval

Academy, Annapolis, Md., be turned over to the Academy authorities for use in quartering midshipmen; and that the Marine Corps rifle range be removed from the naval reservation at Winthrop, Md., indicates conclusively that hereafter it will be impracticable to quarter or train large Marine Corps forces in any of the navy yards, and that economy, as well as efficiency, demands that a Marine Corps post on the east coast should be provided for expeditionary forces.

45. In the estimates under "Public Works" for 1919, an item for \$1,000,000 is included for the purchase of land, construction of buildings, and installation thereon of water, light, plumbing, telephone and telegraph systems, necessary grading, roads, wharves, docks, and all other essential preliminary features toward the establishment of this post. It is estimated that the total cost of the project will be \$2,500,000.

CONCLUSION.

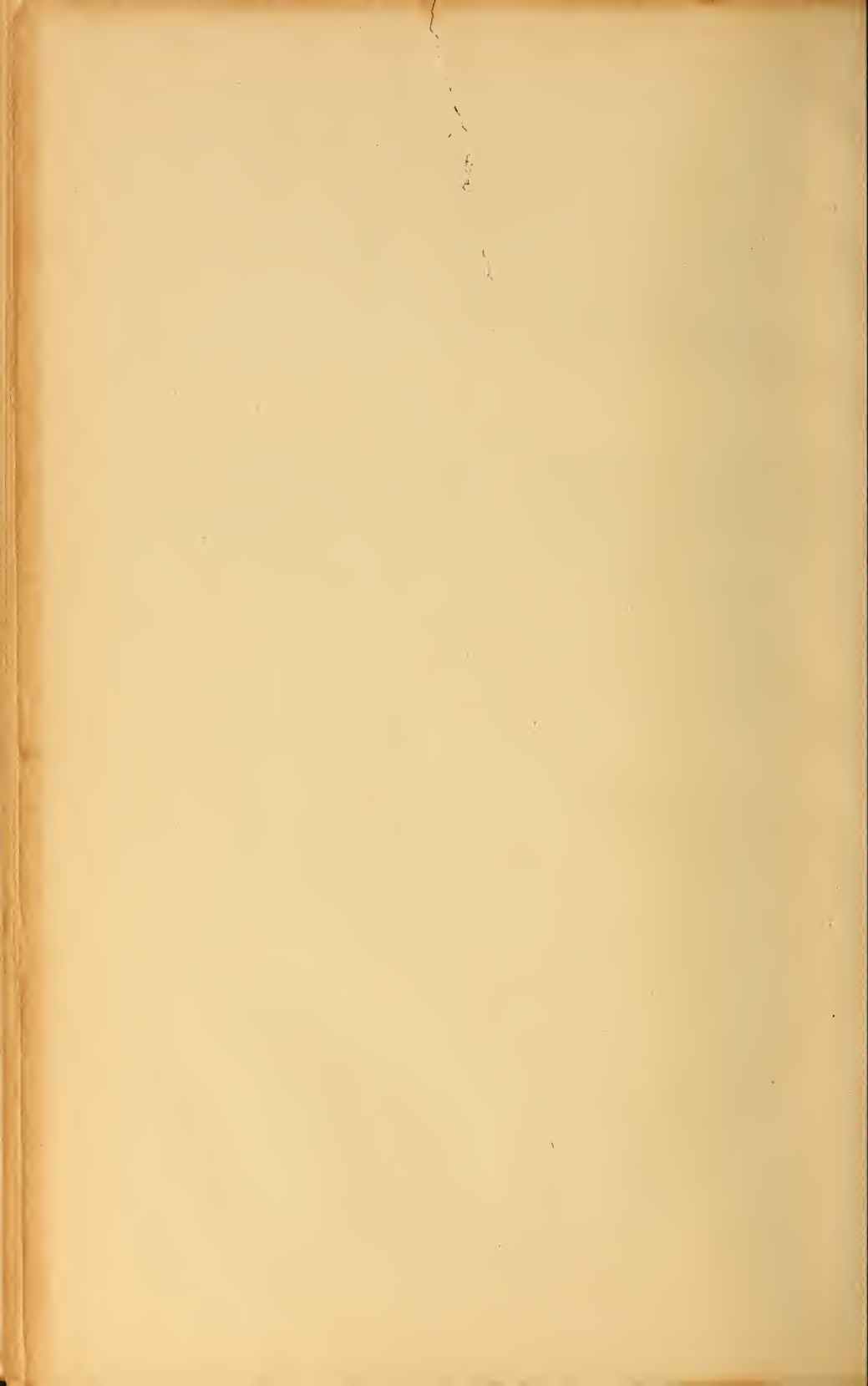
46. In conclusion I deem it pertinent to add that the Marine Corps has met successfully the many difficult situations which have confronted it as the result of its sudden expansion. The entire Corps has been sheltered either in buildings, or under canvas, and has been clothed, equipped, trained, organized for war, and has thus far carried out every mission assigned to it in an efficient manner.

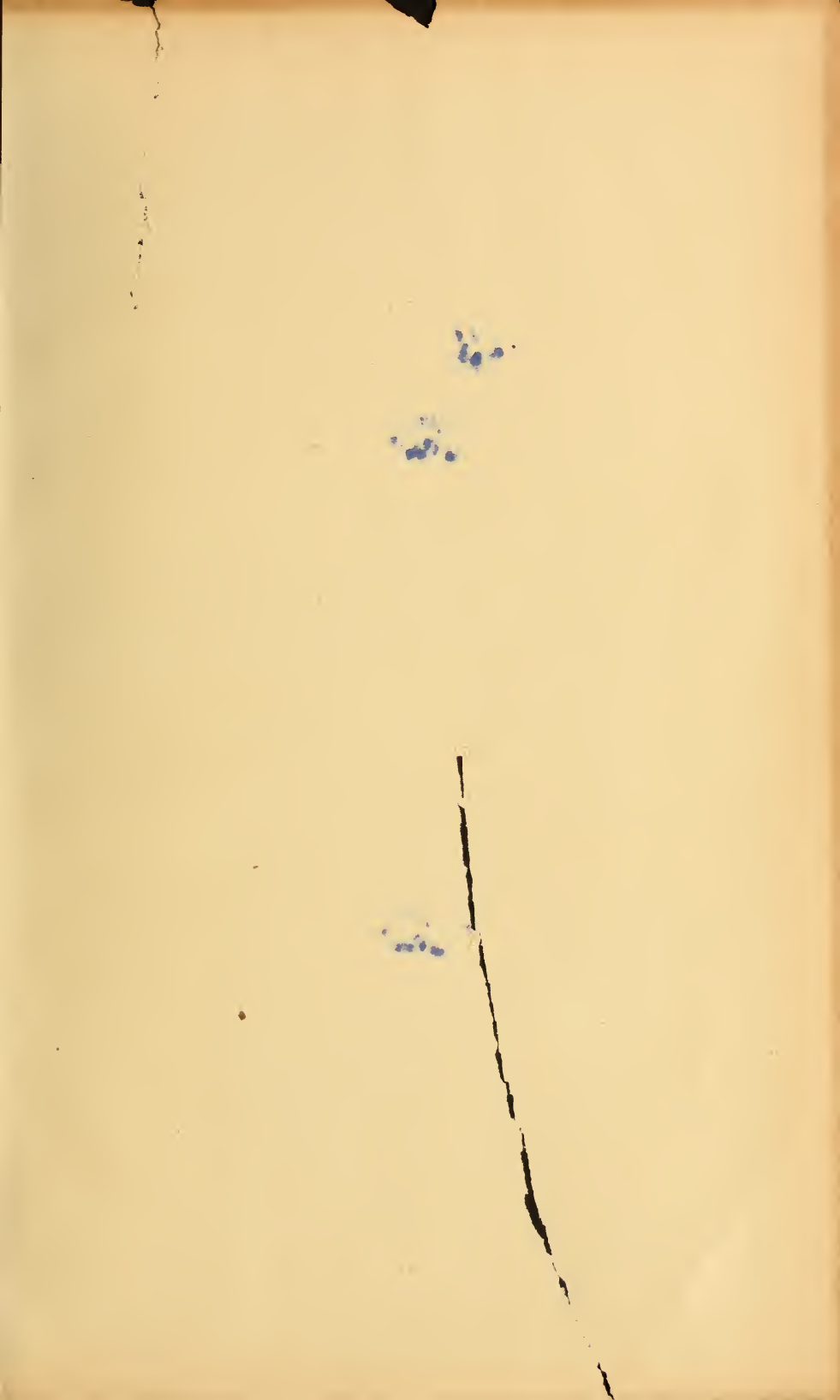
GEORGE BARNETT.

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